

Baker reassures Europe

COVENTRY (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Wednesday that a Soviet proposal on the military future of a united Germany would not be a "red line" for the United States. Baker, who is in Europe on a tour, said the U.S. would not oppose a Soviet proposal to allow a unified Germany to join NATO. Baker said the U.S. would not oppose a Soviet proposal to allow a unified Germany to join NATO. Baker said the U.S. would not oppose a Soviet proposal to allow a unified Germany to join NATO.

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Hizbollah ready to end feud

BEIRUT (R) — The pro-Iranian Hizbollah group, locked in three years of fighting with the Syrian-backed Amal militia, asked Tehran and Damascus Wednesday to pursue their efforts to end the bloody inter-Shi'ite feud. "It is about time to heal the bleeding wound resulting from the fighting between us and Amal. We have from our side the appropriate stage to heal this wound," Hizbollah said in a statement. The extremist group, trained and financed by Tehran, said the fighting between the Shi'ite militias has been diverting it from confronting Israel and its allies, America. We repeat today our call on our brothers in Iran and Syria to continue their sincere efforts to put a final end to this issue in order to protect the resistance and enhance its capabilities to confront the Zionist enemy."

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Libya 'will respond firmly' to any Israeli attack

NICOSIA (R) — Libya, repeating its denial that it was involved in a Palestinian maritime raid on Israel, said Wednesday it would respond with "all firmness and severity" to any Israeli retaliatory attack. A Foreign Ministry statement said charges of Libyan involvement were part of "the Zionist enemy's policy and his aggressive designs against Libya. Any aggressive act targeting Libya will be confronted with all firmness and severity."

Capucci ends hunger strike

ROME (AP) — A Greek Catholic archbishop Wednesday ended a 15-day hunger strike he observed in Rome to support the Palestinian cause, the Arab League office reported. Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, 67, who was jailed by the Israelis for nearly three years in the mid-1970s on charges of smuggling arms to Palestinian guerrillas, has launched several other hunger strikes in recent years to protest Israeli actions. "My hunger strike, which lasted 15 days to show solidarity with my martyred people, (and) to condemn the crimes perpetrated against them, particularly those of recent days, has been carried out in order that I may do my duty and respond to the appeal of my conscience and my heart," the Syrian-born patriarch said in a statement.

Cambodian rebels claim victory

BANGKOK (R) — Cambodian guerrillas Wednesday claimed fresh military successes. The claims followed the signing of a conditional ceasefire with the government that had raised little hope of relief on the battlefield. Forces loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk said they had captured three towns in central Kompong Thom in the past week. A Sihanoukist statement said the guerrillas killed 66 soldiers in the attacks on Prasath Sambaur, Friday, and Stung Monday, Sunday, when the defenders fled "without any real fighting" Saturday. A guerrilla source told Reuters: "The Sihanoukist attacked jointly with fighters of the communist Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge said it had severed route 10, running 80 kilometres between the important western towns of Pailin and Battambang."

1 killed, 1 hurt in Belfast blast

BELFAST (R) — A man was killed and a woman was seriously injured when a bomb blew up their car in Belfast Tuesday, police said. The blast occurred close to a school in the Northern Ireland capital. Police said they could not confirm an early report that the man was a former member of the security forces. "It was a bomb of some type all right," said a police spokesman. A second woman walking on the footpath also caught the force of the explosion but apparently escaped serious injury. Police said they believed the bomb exploded under the car which was wrecked by the blast.

Former Czech party chiefs held

PRAGUE (AP) — Former Communist Party chief Milos Jakes and at least four other former Communist leaders have been detained by police two days before the first free elections since 1946, the state news agency CTK said Wednesday. Vasil Bilak, a former Communist Party ideologue chief thought to have been instrumental in inviting Soviet troops to Czechoslovakia in 1968, was also detained. In addition to Jakes and Bilak, police detained Josef Lenart, Michal Stefanek and Rudolf Hegebart, who last week was named in a British Broadcasting Corporation documentary as a Communist Party official who allegedly worked with the Soviet KGB to try to oust Jakes last November.

PLO sitting tight

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is sitting tight against threats to break off contacts because the organisation cannot risk flying in the face of an angry anti-American mood among Palestinians, PLO officials say. Washington is investigating a Palestinian guerrilla raid on the Israeli coast last Wednesday to see if it violated the PLO anti-terrorism pledge which made the dialogue possible. The 15-man PLO Executive Committee is meeting in Baghdad to discuss U.S. demands that it condemn the raid and take action against Muhammad Abbas, the executive committee member whose group made the raid.

But PLO officials in Tunis said that publicity about the U.S. demands had been counterproductive. "The PLO won't respond in the way the U.S. wants. It's an attempt to blackmail us and we can't afford to seem to be dictated to," a senior PLO official told Reuters Wednesday. Many Palestinians favoured military action against Israeli targets in retaliation for the killing of eight Palestinians by Israeli gunmen last month and the killing of other Palestinians in the demonstrations that followed.

"There's a popular feeling among Palestinians that a response was justifiable. The mood is angry and aggressively anti-American at the moment. The mood is to talk tough and not give in to them," he said. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has said he cannot expect or suspend Muhammad Abbas (Abu Abbas) from the executive committee because he was elected by the Palestine National Council.

He has also declined to condemn the guerrilla raid by Abu Abbas's Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), saying only that the forces and institutions under central PLO control had nothing to do with it and had no advance knowledge of it.

The PLO official in Tunis, who asked not to be named, said a public reprimand of Abu Abbas would be seen as capitulation to the United States, though in private many Palestinians recognised that the PLF operation was not in their interests.

"Abu Abbas has the support of perhaps one Palestinian in a thousand. If Arafat takes action against him, the level of support would rise to five in a thousand," he added.

Another PLO official said he expected the Baghdad meeting to attack U.S. policy in strong language and accuse Washington of "covering up Israel's crimes" by using its veto against U.N. Security Council resolutions which Israel opposes.

The United States last week vetoed a resolution which would have sent a U.N. fact-finding mission to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The PLO officials said they thought it unlikely Washington would decide to break off its 18-month-old dialogue with the PLO, despite pressure from Israel and the U.S. congress. "To break it off would strengthen (Israeli Prime Minister) Yitzhak Shamir internally and would mean the United States can no longer play the role it has designated for itself in the Middle East as the party in touch with everyone," said one.

Top government officials reshuffled; eight retired

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday transferring 20 senior government officials to new positions. A Cabinet decision also announced the retirement of eight senior officials.

The decisions take effect Saturday, June 9, 1990. According to the Royal Decree — Mr. Muhammad Mahdi Al Farhan, director of the Social Security Corporation, will become director of the Customs Department;

— Mr. Faleh Al Qudah, senior official at the Free Zones Corporation, will become the corporation's director;

— Dr. Abdul Azz Wishah, a senior official at the Natural Resources Authority, will become secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority;

— Mr. Muhammad Al Saqqaf, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, will become director of the Social Security Corporation;

— Mr. Adel Qudah, director of Customs Department, will become director of the Income Tax Department;

— Mr. Ali Al Gharaibeh, director of the Budget Department, will become director of the Lands and Survey Department;

— Dr. Ibrahim Badran, secretary general of the Ministry of Energy, will become secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade;

— Mr. Asem Ghosheh, secretary general of the Ministry of Youth, will become secretary general of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources;

— Mr. 'Eid Al Fayez, director of the Ports Corporation, will become secretary general of the Ministry of Youth;

— Mr. Awad Tal, secretary general of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, will become director of the Jordan Ports Corporation;

— Mr. Suleiman Al Hababbeh will become director of the Public Transport Corporation, succeeding Muhammad Jamil Abul Tayyeb who has been retired;

— Dr. Burhan Shreideh, director of the Vocational Training Corporation, will become director of the Hijaz Railway;

— Dr. Muhammad Bani Hani, secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority, will become secretary general of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment;

— Mr. Muhammad Kreishan, director of the Hijaz Railway, will become director of the Aqaba Railway Corporation;

— Mr. Muhammad Ziyad Al Jamal from the Ministry of Education will become director of the Purchases Department;

— Mr. Saleh Al Zoubi, former director of Al Dstour daily and former secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, will become Secretary General of Parliament;

— Mr. Mohammad Al Abdullah, senior official at the Free Zones Corporation, will become director general of the Civil Service Consumer Corporation, to succeed Nabil Abul Huda who became minister of supply in the present government;

— Mr. Ahmad Al Atwan from the Ministry of Education will become director general of the Vocational Training Corporation;

— Mr. Zuhair Khalifa will become director general of the Cities and Villages Development Bank;

— Mr. Salwan Al Tarawneh, director of the Income Tax Department, will become director of the Budget Department.

Senior officials retired include the following: Mr. Hani Kheir, Secretary General of Parliament, Mr. Yassin Kayed, director of the Free Zones Corporation, Mr. Ghazi Lubadeh, director of the Purchases Department, Mr. Khalil Al Faouri, director of the National Aid Fund, Mr. Ahmad Jamal Hussein, assistant director of the Lands and Survey Department, Mr. Nabih Al Abwe, advisor at the Ministry of Transport, and Anwar Malhas, director of the Telecommunications Department at the Post Office and Postal Savings Department. The service of Mr. Mrewid Al Tal, director general of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation, was terminated.

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'Deep frustration in the absence of peace fuels extremism in Mideast'

Jordan welcomes Soviet warning to Israel over emigres

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan welcomes the recent Soviet warning to Israel that it might consider halting the issuance of exit permits for Soviet Jews if the Jewish state does not provide assurances that the emigres will not be settled in the occupied Arab territories as well as the reiteration of American opposition to settlements, a senior Jordanian official said Wednesday.

"We are grateful to hear the reiterated position by the U.S. and the clear new position by the Soviet Union regarding this process — to have the U.S. say that 'we are reiterating our position against settlements in the occupied territories' is something that we appreciate, as we have appreciated earlier," the official said. "But now, I think the time is very important to see the beginning of a serious movement on the part of the U.S. to make its policy more credible and less redundant," added the official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity.

The official was referring to comments made by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush in Washington June 3. According to the official, Jordan has secured assurances from the United States that no housing loan guarantees would be granted to Israel without the Jewish state providing assurances that the money will not be spent on settling immigrants in the occupied territories.

Jordan was in touch with the U.S. administration late last year over this subject, and was told that there was no such Israeli request at that time. Gorbachev's public remarks directly contradicted all the Soviets had told the Americans privately during the summit and hence were confusing, the U.S. official said.

"They had made clear that their commitment to emigration was a strong one and wasn't going to be altered," he said. The official did not define what the consequences would have been had Moscow stopped Jewish emigration.

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and that if any move was made by the U.S. Congress the administration "will not let it go unless there are full guarantees and assurances that the money will not be spent in a way which damage the (Middle East) peace process," the official said.

However, the official said, the U.S. Senate mooted a bill to grant a \$400 million housing guarantee to Israel and it was approved by Congress last month. The U.S. president has also signed the authorisation, the official added.

According to reports from Israel, the U.S. administration has informed the Jewish state that the authorisation would not be released without the sought-for assurances have been provided to Washington.

Disappointment over veto
Jordan was "very much disappointed" with the recent American veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution proposing the dispatch of a fact-finding mission to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the official said. He explained that the first draft of the resolution had several elements — including a call for the stationing of U.N. forces in the occupied territories and for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East — which would have been rejected outright by the U.S. in light of Washington's known opposition to such proposals. But the modified version of the resolution was "muted... and mild... and we had anticipated an abstention rather than a veto... and we are quite surprised by the veto," he said.

Last week's abortive Palestinian guerrilla raid on the Israeli coast "appears to have given a pretext" for the U.S. to veto the resolution, the official added.

"We hope the U.S. would examine the effects of casting this negative vote in light of the reaction and development in the region," he said. "We feel that it is only adding to the frustrations that are translating themselves in certain behaviour and acts that are not conducive what they are trying to promote; that is a comprehensive peace that the region needs."

Iran-Iraq moves welcomed
The official welcomed signs of movement by both Iraq and Iran towards direct peace talks after eight years of war and two years of no-war-no-peace situation. "Apparently, both sides have realised that they can no longer wait for someone to bring them together and that it would never occur if they waited any longer," he said.

According to the official, peace between Iraq and Iran could lead to immediate changes in the Middle East, starting with Lebanon, where he said, "Iraq is fighting an Iranian extension." However, he did not go into details of the envisaged changes in the region. "Maybe others would consider the situation and decide to join the entente," he said, in apparent reference to Syria, which supported Iraq in the war and remains at odds with Iraq.

It would be wrong to assume that the May 28-30 Baghdad summit came about on a "confrontational approach" to any country, according to the official. He said that the difference in approaches that emerged at the summit was due to the fact that the Arab states "differ in the style of dealing but there is no difference in the goals."

The resolutions adopted by the summit were largely critical of the United States for its support for Israel and warned that the Arab World's international relations would be guided by the respective countries' stand on Soviet Jewish immigration.

According to the official, the resolutions reflected the Arab leaders' realisation of the dangers inherent in Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the settlement of the new arrivals in the occupied territories. The summit understood that the effects of the Israeli settlement policy are not limited to the Palestinians and the

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Egypt pledges to help Lebanon

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt promised Lebanese President Elias Hrawi Wednesday to use its influence in the Arab World to try and end Lebanon's long misery.

Cairo also said it would undertake international contacts seeking to restore Lebanese sovereignty over parts of southern Lebanon under Israeli's control. But Osama Al Baz, a key aide to President Hosni Mubarak, warned that Israel is not easily persuaded "to take a certain path."

Hrawi, on his first trip to Cairo since assuming battle-scarred Lebanon's presidency last Nov. 24, discussed with Mubarak for two hours how Egypt can become more active in ending the country's chaos.

The Lebanese leader also met with the United States' ambassador to Lebanon, John McCarthy, who assumed his post a few days before Hrawi became president but has not lived in Beirut.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency quoted a Lebanese presidential source as saying Hrawi also talked with Ryan Crocker, acting deputy chief of mission (DCM) at the U.S. embassy in Cairo.

The agency said Crocker has been appointed to replace McCarthy, which several Lebanese radio stations also have reported. Marcelle M. Wahba, spokeswoman at the Cairo embassy, confirmed the McCarthy meeting but denied that Crocker had attended the meeting or has been appointed ambassador to Lebanon.

'Right-wing crazies' poised to take power in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir raced Wednesday to forge what political allies and the press called a government of "right-wing crazies" as a deadline to end Israel's political crisis approached.

Shamir, 74, has until Friday to tell President Chaim Herzog whether he can form a coalition to replace a left-right cabinet that broke up 83 days ago over his refusal to accept U.S. Middle East peace proposals.

Aides said Shamir's rightist Likud Party would muster a parliamentary majority in a confidence vote early next week despite last-minute difficulties in getting signed commitments from far-right and religious partners.

"He will try to form a government by tomorrow," media adviser Avi Pazner said. But he added: "There is no guarantee."

Unable to revive his government with the Labour Party, which favours the U.S. proposals for Israeli-Palestinian talks, Shamir has enlisted support from what some newspapers and sources close to him call "right-wing crazies."

His potential partners in Israel's next government seek to flood the occupied territories with Jews, toughen measures to quash the Palestinian uprising and force more public religious observance on the secular majority.

Such a government is opposed by the U.S., Israel's guardian ally, as well as most Israelis and Shamir himself.

Political commentators speculated Shamir's earlier search for a government with Labour was prompted largely by his fear that hardline Likud rival Ariel Sharon, leader of the 1982 Lebanon invasion, would usurp his control over a right-wing coalition.

"Sharon, supported by the right, will lead the government into a dead end that will hoist Sharon into the leadership of Likud," wrote analyst Hanaa Crystal in the daily Hadashot.

Many Israelis have accused the hawkish Sharon, 62, of acting without government authority when he took troops to Beirut in the 1982 invasion, prompting then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin to resign.

Media reports said Sharon would handle immigration in a new government, overseeing an influx of Soviet Jews at the heart of an international controversy over their settlement in the occupied territories.

Likud holds 40 seats in parliament to Labour's 39. Its coalition would include Shas (5 seats), the National Religious Party (5), Tehiya (3), Degel Hatorah (2), Tsomet (2), Moledet (2) and breakaway religious party members (2).

If Shamir fails to assemble a government by Friday, the president may either give another member of parliament the task or tell Speaker Dov Shilansky to call new elections.

Otherwise a parliamentary majority might appeal to the president to appoint another nominee. Both Sharon and former Labour Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin have said they could forge a majority.

Rafsanjani holds out hopes for Gulf peace

TEHRAN (AP) — President Hashemi Rafsanjani said Wednesday the United States must push Israel and Kuwait to free "hostages" if it wants help in gaining release of Westerners held in Lebanon.

The turbulent Rafsanjani also said he did not rule out a peace summit with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, but only after lower-level Iraqi-Iranian meetings.

On Iran's death call against British author Salman Rushdie, he said ties with London could be resumed if Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher condemns the book the Satanic Verses. But he said there was no question of lifting the death decree.

"The irresponsible, arrogant attitude of the United States has created further difficulties" in resolving the hostage crisis, he told a news conference for 200 foreign and local journalists.

Two American educators, Robert Polhill and Frank Reed, were released by their Iranian kidnappers at Tehran's bidding in April, and Iran said Washington should make a gesture in return.

"An appropriate response was expected after the Lebanese unconditionally set free the hostages — release of hostages in Kuwait and Israel," Rafsanjani said.

"Why don't you help increase the necessary public pressure on those governments to release these hostages, so that the Western hostages can be freed in return?" he asked the journalists.

"If the United States is serious about wanting relations with Iran in the future, it must begin to act, because talking is not enough," Rafsanjani said.

Hundreds of Muslims are held in Israel and an Israeli-controlled strip in South Lebanon. Their release has been a constant demand of Iran and the pro-Iranian kidnap groups.

But the reference to Kuwait, though not new, appeared to be the first by an Iranian leader for some months.

Seventeen men, mostly Iranian and Iraqi Shiite Muslims, were jailed in Kuwait in February 1984 for the Dec. 12, 1983, car bomb-

ings that killed five people and wounded 86.

One of the dead was the driver who rammed an explosive-laden truck into the U.S. embassy compound. Two were released in February 1989 after serving their five-year sentences.

Of the remaining 15, three were sentenced to death, but the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, has never ratified the sentences.

Seven others are serving life terms, four are serving 15-year terms and one a 10-year sentence.

The Kuwaitis have repeatedly refused to free any of the men before their sentences are completed.

Rafsanjani said Iran's policy was "to help secure the release of all the hostages, whether they be Western, Lebanese or Iranian. We continued, as the (spiritual) leader (Ayatollah Ali Khamenei) stated, to hold on to this policy."

He said the presence of Lebanese Shiite leaders in Iran in the past few days was connected with commemoration of the first anniversary of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death and stressed it had nothing to do with the hostage issue.

"Iran is like home to Hizbollah and other forces," Rafsanjani said. "They have no connection with hostage taking."

"We contact those holding the hostages through third parties. The Lebanese have proved to be responsible towards release of the hostages."

He did not elaborate or clarify this last remark.

The Iranian president also reiterated his country's recent claim that four Iranians who were kidnapped by the Christian Lebanese Forces militia in 1982 are still alive.

"We have learned officially from a government, and from reliable sources in east Beirut, that the Iranian hostages are alive," Rafsanjani said. "The

special envoy of a certain government has informed us."

He did not identify the country.

U.S. President George Bush's administration recently provided Iran with information, through the Swiss government, which it said indicated the four men are dead.

They are Ahmad Motevasselian, commander of the contingent of Iranian Revolutionary Guards based in the Bekaa Valley of east Lebanon; Charge d'Affaires Mohsen Musavi; Kazem Akhavan Allaf, a photographer for Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency; and their Iranian driver, Mohammad Taghi Rastegari Moqadam.

They were seized at a Lebanese forces checkpoint at Badara, the northernmost point in the Christian enclave 40 kilometres north of Beirut.

Lebanese Forces commander Samir Geagea said in August 1988 that after he took over the militia in 1986 he found no trace of the missing men and blamed his predecessor, Elie Hobeika, for their disappearance and apparent murder.

Geagea's disclosure was the first formal comment by the militia that it had been involved in the seizure of the missing Iranians.

Sources in the Lebanese Forces have said the Iranians were killed soon after they were seized in artillery battles between the Christians and Muslim factions, including the Iranian-backed Shiite Hizbollah.

But there have been other unconfirmed reports that three of the Iranians are still alive, while the fourth was shot trying to escape.

The 16 Westerners missing in Lebanon are six Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, and Italian and an Irishman. Most are believed held by pro-Iranian Shiite groups.

On the Gulf war, Rafsanjani pointed out that the Iraqi president recently sent two letters to the Iranian leadership suggesting the two leaders hold a summit meeting.

Israel to stop expulsion of Palestinians

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's military administration in the occupied Arab territories will stop expelling Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip without residency permits, the state attorney's office says.

The announcement came as the state attorney's office responded Tuesday to a supreme court appeal filed by 15 Palestinians belonging to families separated by the army's practice.

The families said the practice is "unreasonable, directed by alien demographic and political considerations and contradicts the principles of international law," the Israeli News Agency, ITIM, said.

The state attorney's office responded by saying Arabs living in the Israeli-occupied territories would from now on be allowed to ask for a residency status for members of their families and would be allowed to live in the territories unless there is a "specific negative security reason" to deny the request, ITIM said.

The state attorney's office said Palestinians without residency permits would have the status of "visitors" and would be allowed to reside permanently with their families. They would also be able to reaffirm status without leaving for abroad and then returning on

temporary guest visas, as they had to do until now.

They would be allowed to apply for permanent residency and, even if denied, could still continue to live in the territories with their families.

"This provides a realistic solution to the humanitarian problem of separation between the appellants and their wives and children," ITIM quoted the government's representative, attorney Meni Mazoz, as saying.

Palestinian activists have said the expulsions were part of long-term strategy to force Palestinians out of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, which Israel captured during the 1967 Middle East war.

Israeli officials deny this. According to the army, 251 Palestinians, including 88 women and 78 children, were expelled from the occupied Arab territories in 1989. The army has no figures for preceding years.

Last January, the U.S. State Department expressed concern over the expulsions. Then defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin immediately ordered a temporary halt to the practice and promised to review it.

The expulsions were based on strict residency regulations

adopted by the army-run government in the occupied Arab lands. Under these rules, only Palestinians who lived in the occupied lands during a September 1967 census were automatically eligible for permits, and all others had to apply for permits.

The group most affected were Palestinian women whose families fled to Jordan when Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza in 1967, and who later married men from the occupied areas.

The new policy provides an opening for the thousands of Palestinians seeking to join their families living in the West Bank and Gaza, home to 1.7 million Palestinians.

Wives and children denied residency permits used to enter the occupied lands on three-month guest visas, and then had to abandon their families and return to Jordan for several months or stay illegally.

According to Rabin, military officials have received 88,249 requests for "family reunification" since 1967, and 13,509 of those were granted.

Some Palestinians want to increase their numbers in the territories, while Israel wants to limit the number of Arabs under its control.

Ethiopia supports reopening port of Massawa, reviving peace talks

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — Ethiopia said it had agreed "in principle" to the shipment of emergency food for millions of drought victims through a rebel-controlled Red Sea port.

The Marxist government also confirmed it had taken steps to revive peace talks with the Eritrean guerrillas who have waged a prolonged civil war in Ethiopia's northernmost province and now control most of its countryside.

The statement broadcast Tuesday night by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Ethiopia had agreed to allow U.N. representatives attend the peace talks, a move announced in Washington Sunday in a joint U.S.-Soviet statement.

The ministry's statement also welcomed "with great appreciation" plans by the United States and the Soviet Union to launch joint airlifts of emergency food to northern Ethiopia.

The United Nations estimates 4.5 million people in the parched region are threatened with starvation. The world body had planned to ship most of 1 million tonnes of emergency food needed through the Red Sea port of Massawa.

However, the plan was abandoned after the Eritreans captured Massawa in an offensive launched in February. As a result, all donated food has been diverted to Asseb, Ethiopia's second port, and trucked north.

The government Tuesday said it had "decided to accept in principle" the reopening of Massawa

and was ready to discuss how to go about it with international donors and "other interested parties."

The rebels, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), did not immediately comment on the announcement but has previously urged relief agencies to use the port.

The capture of Massawa cut all land and sea routes from Eritrea to Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. Another smaller rebel group, the Tigre People's Liberation Front, controls Eritrea's southern neighbour, Tigre province.

Should Massawa reopen, relief supplies would be unloaded at the port and trucked through embattled territory to Eritrea's capital, Asmara, apparently requiring a ceasefire agreement.

The Ethiopian Air Force also has regularly bombed rebel positions at Massawa since its capture on Feb. 11, extensively damaging the port's facilities.

The proposed joint U.S.-Soviet lift also would deliver supplies to Asmara with U.S. food being carried on Soviet planes. No date has been announced for the beginning of the airlift.

On resumption of peace talks with the Eritreans, a source said Ethiopia already had informed U.N. General Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar and the co-chairman of the peace talks, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere, that it would welcome U.N. participation.

Eritrea's rebels see U.N. parti-

cipation as de facto recognition of their secessionist movement. President Mengistu Haile Mariam's government has opposed it for the same reason.

Two rounds of preliminary peace talks between the Eritreans and Ethiopia's government were held late last year, but a third round scheduled to begin in May foundered over whether the United Nations should send an observer.

In Khartoum, a Sudanese official said Wednesday, almost a million Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan are living needlessly under near-famine conditions because donor countries aren't helping them.

Maj.-Gen. Youssef Beshir Siraj, governor of the eastern region that shares a border with Ethiopia, said around 600 additional refugees trudge into Sudan every day.

He was quoted by Al Sudan Al Hadith newspaper as saying they and more than 900,000 already in Sudan "are living under difficult conditions of quasi-famine."

They "have received no relief supplies other than sorghum for a long time," he said, and urged the international community to step in to rescue them.

Sudan's military government estimates 1.2 million Ethiopian refugees are in Sudan, mostly in the eastern region where the current group is arriving. The Khartoum office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees puts the number lower, at no more than 800,000.

Many of the refugees have been in Sudan since fleeing a 1984-85 famine in Ethiopia that killed an estimated one million people. Most of the arrivals now are seeking shelter in established Sudanese refugee camps from insurrections in northern and western Ethiopia against that coun-



An Ethiopian father and his two sons, who suffered in the 1984 famine, again face dire food shortages.

try's government.

UNHCR officials around the world have been cutting their budgets this year, and the share allocated to Sudan is little more than half previous levels. This has prompted protests from Sudan's nearly bankrupt government over being left to feed the Ethiopians from its own meager resources.

Turkish, Greek premiers may hold talks in July

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish and Greek Prime Ministers may meet next month during a NATO summit in London, but are not likely to discuss the Cyprus issue, a Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

"A preliminary acquaintance meeting seems possible between Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut and Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis during the NATO summit in London on July 4-5," Murat Sungar said.

He said a verbal goodwill message indicating a July meeting from Mitsotakis was delivered to Akbulut by Greek Justice Minister Athanasios Kanellopoulos in Istanbul Tuesday during a convention of European justice ministers.

"Akbulut has replied favourably. But it is unlikely that major issues will be taken up in depth at such a first meeting," Sungar said.

The meeting will be the first official talks between Akbulut who came to power last November and Mitsotakis who won general elections in April.

NATO partners Turkey and Greece have been at political odds since Ankara sent troops into Cyprus in 1974 following a short-lived coup in Nicosia backed by the military junta then ruling Greece.

They also have a long-standing dispute over territorial rights in the Aegean which is believed to be rich in minerals, including oil.

Mitsotakis told Turkish television Monday that he supported a revival of political dialogue with Ankara which should primarily include the Cyprus issue.

"We shall be only too glad," Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Bozer said Tuesday, commenting on Mitsotakis' call for talks. But he added: "I think the Cyprus

issue should be dealt with separately instead of taking precedence among other issues (between Turkey and Greece)."

"We favour the continuation of intercommunal talks on Cyprus under the auspices of the U.N. Secretary General. I can see drawbacks in a tendency to internationalise the problem," he said.

The talks between Cypriot President George Vassiliou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash, failed in February, mainly over the issue of self-determination for the 160,000 Turkish Cypriots who share the island with 600,000 Greek Cypriots.

Denktash who leads the breakaway "Turkish Republic" in the north, recognised only by Ankara, wants to put a future agreement on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federal Cypriot state to public vote.

"The right of self-determination either exists or does not. The Turkish Cypriots have exercised this right in the past when they declared a federated state (in 1975) and an independent republic in 1983," Sungar said.

He said Turkey differed with a senior U.S. official who said neither community on Cyprus had the right of self-determination.

Meanwhile, a U.S. official said Tuesday that relations between Turkey and the United States were likely to suffer unless a solution was reached to reunify Cyprus.

"The Turkish military presence on Cyprus is such that we must find a constitutional or legal framework for it or the Turkish-U.S. relationship is bound to suffer," Nelson Ledsky, the special coordinator for Cyprus at the U.S. State Department, told a news conference.

Ledsky held two days of talks in Ankara after visiting Greece.

Euphrates water major obstacle in ties with Turkey, Iraq says

BAGHDAD (AP) — A government minister condemned Turkey over its failure to reach an agreement with Iraq on sharing the water of the Euphrates River, in an interview published Wednesday.

Oil Minister Issam Al Chalabi told the government-owned weekly Alef Baa that the conflict over water resources is very serious and could harm stability in the region.

"It is regrettable the Turkish side has not been serious in giving due attention to the issue ... which we consider very important not only because of Iraq's interests but also because of its importance in the long run for the stability of the region," he was quoted as saying.

Chalabi, who headed the Iraqi

team in negotiations over the water sharing, said the problem is threatening the development of relations and accused Turkey of turning a deaf ear to Iraq's appeal to solve the problem through negotiations.

He also accused the Turkish side of ignoring the issue during a visit by Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut to Iraq last month.

"We asked them during preparatory talks to give utmost priority to the water problem at the prime minister's talks but he came with 200 delegates without one single water specialist with him," Chalabi said.

"This is a real obstacle on the road to developing relations between the two countries," he warned.

Turkey diverted much of the Euphrates water last January for a month to start filling the giant reservoir at the Ataturk Dam, centerpiece of a major hydroelectric and irrigation project in their impoverished southeastern provinces.

The Turkish action triggered protests in Iraq and Syria, who feared damage to their agriculture and a worsening of international quarrels over scarce water resources.

Chalabi expressed hope that Turkey will show more flexibility during talks between irrigation officials of Iraq, Syria and Turkey later this month, which Iraq wants to end with a new accord on water sharing that would be in the interests of the three countries.

France to reopen embassy in Kabul

PARIS (R) — France will reopen its embassy in Afghanistan on June 15, more than a year after most foreign missions in Kabul closed believing the city was about to fall to Mujahideen guerrillas and a bloodbath was imminent.

The Foreign Ministry said Wednesday a team of technicians had arrived in Kabul to prepare the building for reopening.

A ministry spokesman said the mission had been closed for security reasons and was being reopened because the security situation had improved.

He declined to comment on French media speculation that Paris was changing its attitude through wariness of Islamic fundamentalism and belief that President Najibullah had good chances of staying in power.

Meanwhile, a radical Afghan guerrilla group threatened Tuesday to block aid sent into Afgha-

nistan by the United Nations, un-Islamic organisations and relief goods with U.S. markings.

A communiqué from the Pakistan-based Hezb-I-Islami party of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said such aid was meant to weaken the Muslim guerrillas' Jihad (holy war) against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

"We, therefore, hereby declare that the Mujahideen (rebels) will foil this conspiracy and prevent the entry of such assistance into Afghanistan," it said.

The Hezb, one of the best organised of the guerrilla groups fighting the Kabul government, said relief goods should be sent through the guerrilla groups.

"The consequences of the dispatch of such assistance through unprincipled and unpermissible methods will squarely lie on the shoulders of the dispatchers," the communiqué said.

The warning follows attacks on

voluntary groups helping Afghan refugees in Pakistan and inside Afghanistan.

The United Nations has in recent months sent relief supplies into Afghanistan via the Soviet Union.

The United States resumed food aid to rebel-controlled areas in Afghanistan last April after suspending it for several months. In a separate development, guerrillas rained 25 rockets on the Afghan capital Kabul Tuesday, killing 10 people, official Kabul Radio said.

A spokesman for the Soviet-backed government had said earlier that five people were killed and 40 wounded by the rockets, many of which hit residential districts.

The Afghan government protested to Pakistan, accusing it of supplying rockets to the rebels, said Kabul Radio monitored in Islamabad.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Book of Adventure
18:00 News for the Deaf
18:20 Religious programme
19:00 Health programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
21:30 Local series
21:50 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:20 Arabic film
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:40 Mollerism
18:10 Des Chiffres et de lettres
18:30 La Chance aux chansons
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Bill Cosby Show
21:10 Basketball
22:40 News in English
23:20 Feature film: "The Reluctant Agent Inc."

PRAYER TIMES

6:51 Fajr
05:25 Sunrise (Sunnah) Duhur
12:34 Dhuhr
16:15 Asr
19:44 Maghreb
21:18 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 677440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresant Church Tel. 622666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 773261
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 827981, 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be hot and winds will be northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be dusty with northerly fresh wind and calm sea.

Amman Min./max. temp. 15 / 33
Aqaba 21 / 28
Dera'a 15 / 36
Jordan Valley 18 / 36

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Saleh Ali Zayed 790677
Dr. Hani Haddadin 777751
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyar 620115
Dr. Basim Qudus 646024
Firas pharmacy 661912
Al Asana pharmacy 670355
Nadrouk pharmacy 626262
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoubi pharmacy 644945
Smelelani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Amin Abu Eida (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (983238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Salameh Abu Adileh (—)
Khalafieh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate (—)
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 891617/15
Highway Police 834002

TRAFFIC POLICE

Public Security Department 630521
Hotel Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-33200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-33200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Alkhil Maternity, J. Amn 644412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642432
Mallat, J. Amman 635140
Pulsonia, Shamsi 664174
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845045
Al-Wakeel Hospital 6672219
The Islamic, Abdull 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdull 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajir 777010/3
Al-Basir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/28
Blood Bank 891617/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602400/50

AMAL HOSPITAL

674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)991071
Iba Sina Hospital (09)98732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272700
Iba Al Nafous Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haysa Hospital (03)314111

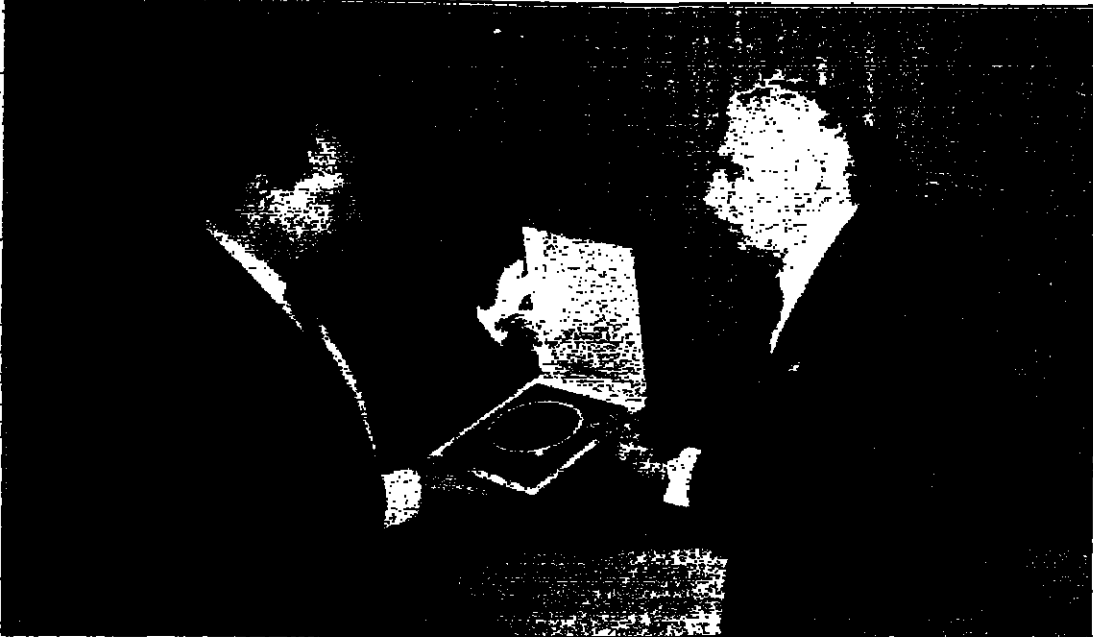
FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
16:15 Riyadh (RJ)
16:30 New Delhi (RJ)
16:30 London (RJ)
16:30 Cairo (RJ)
16:30 Kuwait (RJ)
16:45 Doha (RJ)
16:45 Bahrain (RJ)
16:45 Dubai (RJ)
16:45 Kuwait (RJ)
16:45 Doha (RJ)
16:45 Bahrain (RJ)
16:45 Dubai (RJ)
16:45 Kuwait (RJ)
16:45 Doha (RJ)
16:45 Bahrain (RJ)
16:45 Dubai (RJ)
16:45 Kuwait (RJ)
16:45 Doha



Al Al Bait Foundation President Nasseruddin Al Assad (right) presents the foundation's shield to Ahmad Fathi Sour, the Egyptian minister of education (Petra photo)

Al Al Bait Foundation makes a gift of books to Alexandria library

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Al-Bait Foundation) has presented to the library of Alexandria 97 reference books about Islamic culture and civilisation.

The gift was presented by Al Al Bait Foundation President Dr. Nasseruddin Al Assad to Egyptian Minister of Higher Education Dr. Ahmad Fathi Sour in Amman Wednesday.

Assad said that the books will be a contribution from Al Al Bait Foundation to the rebuilding of the library which is expected to house at least 200,000 volumes when it opens in 1995.

Egypt, along with a group of Arab and Islamic countries, is currently exerting efforts to revive the 3rd century B.C. library of Alexandria.

The library's books will focus on history, geography and culture of the Mediterranean basin and the Near East, and its computerised data base and catalogue will be accessible internationally through computer and telecommunications links, according to an earlier statement issued at the start of a meeting by an international commission for the revival of the ancient library of Alexandria held in Aswan, Egypt, last February.

Dr. Sour expressed his country's appreciation of the Al Al Bait's gift which, he said, is

bound to enrich the projected library.

The total construction and equipping of the library complex will reach an estimated \$160 million of which more than \$40 million will be provided by Iraq and the United Arab Emirates.

The international commission, which is cooperating with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), has appealed for further contributions to carry out the project.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, who is a commission member, took part in the Aswan meeting and delivered a major address outlining the project's importance for the region's culture.

ACC ministers of education sign cooperation agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministers of Higher Education in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries ended a two-day meeting here Wednesday by signing a final report that summed up their deliberations which focused on the implementation of an ACC agreement on cooperation in higher education signed by the four countries in September of last year.

The final report calls for an exchange of information and linking information networks in the four countries: Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and Yemen and for the unification of systems in matters related to secondment of university teachers.

The agreement also calls for granting scholarships and cooperation in matters related to eradication of illiteracy, exchanges of educational publications and materials and holding conferences to tackle higher education issues.

The ministers agreed to set up a technical committee grouping

representatives from the four countries to coordinate matters related to strategies in higher education including legislations, unifying terms used in science and computers as well as the production of educational aids.

The ministers set up another committee to follow up the implementation of the agreement and to coordinate matters related to it with the Amman-based ACC secretariat.

The two committees will convene here before the end of September to report on the progress of their work.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran received the four ministers at the conclusion of their meeting; he was briefed on the agreement and on issues related to coordination of the four countries' drive to achieve integration in educational fields.

Badran expressed Jordan's total support for and satisfaction with the agreement which, he said, was expected to promote wider-cooperation.

Italian group ends 5-day touristic visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 300 Italian tourists including businessmen, media people and journalists wind up a five-day stay in Jordan Thursday.

Their tour took them to the ancient Nabatean city of Petra, the Greco-Roman city of Jerash, the Dead Sea, Kfarak and Madaba in the company of officials and guides from the Ministry of Tourism which provided transport facilities for the visitors.

Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday evening had a meeting with the group led by famous Italian television producer and announcer Mino Damato whom the Queen described as instrumental in promoting the marketing of Jordan's tourist sites in Italy through his weekly television programmes which feature Petra among other touristic attractions in the Kingdom.

In a statement to the Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, the Queen

underlined the importance of bolstering ties between the Jordanian people and other nations so as to promote understanding with a view to helping present the Kingdom's views to the world.

"Tourism in Jordan can be boosted through the efforts of Jordanian citizens themselves who should better understand their nation's heritage and the Kingdom's issues and convey the image to the outside world," the Queen said.

Tourism, she said, is bound not only to bring foreign currency to the country by hosting foreign groups of visitors, it also means one should focus attention on the social and political sectors of tourism for it to become successful.

The Queen commended Damato and Italian Television for helping market Jordan's touristic and archaeological attractions in Italy.

The Queen was guest of honour at one of Damato's programmes; the Italian group had taken part in a competition in Damato's programme and won a prize for their visit to Jordan.

Commenting on the Italian group's visit, Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kabarti said that Damato's television programme contributed to increasing by 72 per cent the total number of Italian tourists who came to Jordan in 1989 over those arriving in 1988.

He expressed belief that the number of Italians coming to Jordan will increase this summer.

At the end of the trip to Petra the group members met with the Queen and Damato presented Her Majesty with a token gift. The mayor of Wadi Mousa town near Petra presented Damato with a gift in recognition of his efforts to promote tourism to Jordan.

ACDIMA holds annual meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Assembly of the Amman-based Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA) will hold its annual meeting in Amman Thursday to review projects in Arab states and decide on the distribution of dividends on profits earned last year.

A total of JD 3.5 million earned from operations in 1989 will be distributed to ACDIMA's 16 shareholders.

ACDIMA's board members include Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Libya, the company's major shareholders.

ACDIMA spokesman said Wednesday that the General Assembly will review projects which are operating in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and projects under construction in Syria and Tunisia as well as plans for schemes in Yemen and Algeria.

Working with a total capital of \$198 million, ACDIMA, which was established in 1976, tries to set realistic priorities for the allocation of its resources in an industry with fairly high start-up costs, according to officials. "Its aim is to locate ACDIMA projects equitably among member states and achieve an overall complementary of production within the region," they said.

ACDIMA objectives are to promote the development of raw materials required for pharmaceutical science and encourage cooperation among various private, government and ACDIMA sponsored industrial establishments in Arab countries.

ACDIMA, established by the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), currently identifies projects, prepares studies and organises investments in the establishment of pharmaceutical and medical appliances production plants all over the Arab World.

Peace delegation urges talks before 'it's too late'

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A 44-member American-Canadian peace mission headed by former U.S. Senator Charles Percy urged that U.S. President George Bush should take "reasonable risks for peace" in the Middle East before "it's too late," during a press conference Wednesday.

"The Bush administration should take reasonable risks for peace right now, before it is too late," Percy told the press.

After a three-week tour of the region, which included Jordan, West Bank, Gaza, Jerusalem and Israel, the group's spokesman, Percy said the group was extremely concerned about the increased violence in the occupied territories.

"The evidence of the excessive use of force and collective punishment by the IDF (Israeli Defence Force) towards the Palestinians is staggering," Percy said speaking on behalf of a group which represented clergymen, political figures, public officials, academicians, civil leaders, physicians, attorneys, scientists, writers and journalists.

In a press statement the group lambasted Israeli policies of closing schools and universities in the occupied territories.

tories, the killing of women and children and taxation without representation of the Palestinians it is attempting to rule.

"One Palestinian put it to us in this way: 'What they (the Israelis) are really trying to do is raise a generation of illiterate Palestinians,'" Percy said.

The former senator pointed out that taxation without representation was the action which precipitated the American revolution.

The treatment of Palestinians under occupation, Percy said, is more than just a political situation but a moral and spiritual issue.

He said that the world will not and cannot stay silent on human rights abuses on the scale, and "the sooner Israel faces this reality the quicker it can return to honouring its democratic values and traditions."

He said that Israel and its relationship with the intifada was of primary importance. He said that the group met with many Israelis who felt Israel could not only continue to live with the intifada but could also contain it. He said that several Israeli officials, with whom the group had met, attempted to trivialise the human rights violations in the occupied territories.

While sharply criticising Israeli human rights violations in the occupied territories Percy also criticised recent attempts at peace by members of the Palestine Liberation Front.

"We cannot emphasise strongly enough what a setback this aborted assault was to a movement supporting the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue," Percy said.

He said that not only did the U.S. government have a unique relationship with the Middle East, it is the only party that can bridge the enormous gap between the political right in Israel, which it seems will soon hold power, and the Palestinians.

Percy would not comment on specific action that he felt the U.S. government should take, but said the tense situation in the region, which has been inflamed by the massive emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories, needed attention now.

Not only was Israel's "skid to the right... embodied by extremist policies" an immediate impediment to peace, but "the temptation on the part of Palestinians to settle their legitimate right to self-determination through illegitimate violence" was increasing. "The trends are unmistakable and must be reversed without delay," Percy said.

Ian Waddell, a Canadian member of parliament, who was on his first trip to the Middle East said that he was deeply moved by what he had seen in the occupied territories.

He said that the PLO had achieved a change in North American public opinion through its adoption of a "non-violence" stand in 1988 and should not be detracted from continuing to take such a stand.

Asked about the role of the U.S. arms industries in a possible future Middle East conflict, former senator Percy said that the United States arms industries were in the process of a major industrial transition which would ultimately reduce arms production.

However, another member of the delegation, actor Mike Farrel, said that the Middle East was a very likely target for arms sales.

"That's one more reason why we, as concerned peoples and nations, must come together" to solve together the conflicts in the region.

In a tone of urgency Percy told reporters that "it has been said of the Middle East that when events are not moving towards peace, they are moving towards war," Percy said.

125,000 people visit Yarmouk exhibition

By Ali Dajani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 15-day industrial exhibition held at Yarmouk University in Irbid will come to a close on Friday. By then at least 125,000 people will have visited the exhibition and examined items displayed by 150 Jordanian businesses and factories; the exhibition had leather and plastic products, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, chemical products, engineering equipment, furniture, wooden doors, kitchens, paper and cardboard, equipment used

in printing, chemicals, processed food, textiles and handicrafts.

The exhibition, which was organised by the Amman Chamber of Industry in cooperation with the Irbid Chamber of Commerce, was held under Royal patronage as part of the Kingdom's celebrations of Independence Day which fell on May 25.

Originally the exhibition was scheduled to be held between May 23 and 31, but in view of the increasing number of visitors the organisers decided to extend the period until Friday, June 8, to give the chance to more people to

inspect national industrial products.

The exhibition, which was held within the Yarmouk University campus, was visited by university students, citizens from Irbid and other cities, businessmen and industrialists.

Last Monday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan visited the exhibition and inspected samples of industrial products which also included items produced by vocational training schools, and charitable organisations in the Irbid governorate.

The exhibition displayed products of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Arab Potash Company; they included minerals extracted from the Dead Sea which are exported to various parts of the world.

Compared to the first industrial exhibition held in Irbid in 1981, the contrast was significant since the 1990 exhibition displayed a greater number of industrial products.

A survey conducted by the organisers showed that 73 visitors considered the time was opportune for the fair while the rest said that it was not convenient because, they said, most students were busy with their examinations.

A total of 96 per cent of the visitors considered the exhibition a total success against four per cent who thought otherwise, and 92 per cent of the visitors called for a repeat.

Yarmouk University students suggested that prizes be given to the articles that best features the exhibition.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by five Jordanian artists at Abdul Hameed Shomran Foundation (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

★ Art exhibition by Dana Khreis and Lamea Khreis at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of products of the Jordan University of Science and Technology displaying equipment used in scientific labs.

CONCERT

★ Concert by the Soviet Georgia Troupe at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Private college to open its doors in September

By Hana Darwazah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Amidst all the talk of new universities, the Amman University College was quietly established. The campus will be finished by the end of June and the four-year college will be officially inaugurated and open its doors to prospective students at the end of this coming September.

According to Dr. Ahmad Hourani, general manager of the United Jordan Investment Company, the parent company of the college, the Amman University College, which is a private college, will open its doors to a capacity of 2,000 students at the end of September.

The college, which is located 8 kilometres away from the main gate of the Jordan University on the Salt highway, has already completed most of the construction of its facilities, including a girls' dormitory. Construction work will terminate by the end of this month (June).

"We are hoping to establish a college with a high standard. Consequently, we have employed approximately 60 full-time members of faculty, 18 of whom are full professors, in addition to 20 part-time professors. The percentage of doctorates of philosophy in the faculty will be 95%," according to Dr. Hourani.

Sources from the Ministry of Higher Education confirmed that the Amman University College is a four-year private college that is accredited and licensed to grant bachelor degrees from the Council of Higher Education of Jordan.

The college will begin with three faculties, although its five-year plan will eventually encompass six faculties. The majors being offered this coming scholastic year will be: management, finance, business

administration, accounting, economics, statistics, computer science, law, Arabic and English literature, history, psychology and sociology, Dr. Hourani told the Jordan Times in an interview.

"The college plans to focus on the applied method of education plus an intensive English programme, especially in the areas of business, finance and law. Approximately one fourth of the syllabus will be covered in the English language," Dr. Hourani said, "plans for the next academic year include a school of science and a school of medicine and technology."

According to Dr. Hourani, the college will accept students from Jordan and from other countries as long as they hold the equivalent of the Jordanian tawjihi. The yearly tuition will be JD 2,000 for students from Jordan and \$4,000 for students from abroad. This fee covers the tuition, various services such as the library, health insurance and the standard required 36 credit hours to be distributed over two semesters and a summer session.

The United Jordan Investment Company, the parent company of the college, is a private shareholding company which has already established three schools, "the university schools" which are located in Jbeitha, Ta' Al Ali and Tarek.

The university has a board of trustees which includes prominent members of the community. Its president is Dr. Mohammad Said Naboulsi, the vice president Dr. Ahmad Hourani. The dean of the university will be Dr. Eid Dhayyat who is currently the acting vice-president of the University of Jordan. Other members of the board include Dr. Abdul Aziz Khayyat, Dr. Bassam El-Saket, Salem El-Lawzi and Abdulrahman Bushnaq.

JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY COMPANY LTD., AMMAN - JORDAN

TENDER INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND BIDDING

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd., announces tender invitation No. 4/90 for the supply, erection and commissioning of a skid mounted sulphur recovery unit to recover sulphur from unibon acid gas and waste water stripper unit off gas streams.

The capacity of the proposed sulphur recovery unit is about 18 tonnes of liquid sulphur per day and the project includes the accompanying facilities as well as all civil, mechanical and electrical works related to the new installation.

Contractors who possess experience in the same field and are qualified financially and technically and who wish to participate in the above tender are invited to submit their prequalification documents not later than 12.00 p.m. Saturday 14/7/1990.

Prequalification documents should include the following:-

1. Financial capability of the contractor, financial references are to be provided.
2. Technical capability of the contractor including details of experience and background of personnel, specifications of available equipment, etc.
3. Detailed documents showing similar projects executed by the contractor, full names and addresses of firms and details of projects including contract cost, and completion periods.

Results of prequalification shall be announced and advised to participants as soon as they become available.

Tenderers are requested to sign a non-disclosure agreement before receiving the tender documents.


Eligible contractors may obtain tender documents from the company's head office at First Circle, Jabel Amman against non-refundable JD (300) per set not later than 24/7/1990.

Offers should be submitted by qualified contractors to the company's head office not later than 12.00 p.m. Wednesday 17/10/1990. Chairman



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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Look at the ICRC first

EVEN MORE relevant than increasing U.N. presence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is enhancing the presence of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). As the Fourth Geneva Convention is the most pertinent international instrument relevant to occupied territories and is recognised internationally as applicable to these territories, the international community should think in terms of having the ICRC measure its observance by Israel. The ICRC is the one special international body which is most concerned about the implementation of the Geneva conventions and has been the driving force behind the adoption of the two additional protocols to the conventions. It is only fitting therefore that it be given the mandate to oversee the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied territories. In this vein, all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflicts, including Israel and the PLO, are also parties to the Geneva conventions and their two additional protocols. Paradoxically, Israel has edged closer to accepting the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the West Bank and Gaza Strip when its deputy foreign minister invoked it last week as the basis for rejecting the idea of sending a U.N. monitoring team to these territories by the U.N. Security Council. Hitherto Israel had maintained that the convention does not apply to the territories occupied by it. At least now Israel is stopped from rejecting the applicability of this convention in the occupied Arab territories. Besides, all the international community without one exception recognises the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the West Bank and Gaza Strip not withstanding Israel's early protestations. Against this legal backdrop, the sensible thing to do now in the wake of the U.S. veto of the U.N. Security Council's resolution to send a tripartite team to monitor the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is to rely on the ICRC to perform this mission.

Needless to say, the ICRC is better equipped to do such a job and its team of experts are, more experienced in conducting such missions than any other international body.

ARAB PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN DAILIES on Wednesday dwelt on statements by His Majesty King Hussein at a meeting with an American delegation led by former Senator Charles Percy, in which he called for the positive developments between East and West to benefit the Middle East conflict. Al Ra'i daily said that the superpowers have a duty to protect stability and peace in all parts of the globe so that world justice and universal peace can have a real meaning. The Arab Nation, the King pointed out, is keen on pursuing all efforts to arrive at a just peace and stability and so it is continuing its endeavours in response to all peace bids because the Arabs are convinced that peace in the Middle East is part of the global peace sought by various nations. The King was keen on stressing that the Middle East will remain a dangerous spot unless serious efforts are made to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, and that it can never enjoy stability unless Moscow and Washington work together to bring about the aspired peace to the region, the paper pointed out. The will of the international power, backed strongly by the superpowers should be respected by the Israelis, who are seeking to impose their hegemony on the Arab region, the King said. He warned that unless serious action to end the problem are taken soon, no one can predict the immensity of the great explosion in this area of the world.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticised isolated and fruitless efforts on the part of splinter groups of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), like the abortive attack on the Palestinian coast. He says that since the PLO is taking charge of all the moves on the diplomatic and military levels to deal with the situation, and since the uprising in Palestine is charging forth in confrontation with the Israeli occupation, there can be no point of overstepping the PLO's overall command. The latest operation at the Palestinian coast, which cost \$3 million and took two years to prepare for, according to Abu Abbas, has achieved nothing for the Palestinian people, said Tareq Masarweh in his column Wednesday. The writer also strongly and bitterly criticised the attack on the French tourists in Amman last month which, he said, triggered aimless sabotage by elements hostile to the Arab World in general and Jordan in particular. The attack on the French tourists indeed overshadowed the atrocities of the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories as well as it dealt a damaging blow to Jordan, the writer noted. He also criticised the local media also for calling for national unity in the wake of the disturbances because the media it look as though the Palestinians were pitted against the Jordanians and the Israelis by their outbursts over the killing of the eight Arab workers near Tel Aviv. "We must stop outbidding the PLO and refrain from any irrational and irresponsible actions that defeat their own purpose," he said.

Al Dustour referred to the King's talk with Charles Percy and said that extremist stands on the Israeli side were bound to beget extremism on the Arab side; and the situation could lead to a point where all the hopes and aspirations for a durable peace would be blown into thin air. The paper recalled the King's words that the PLO and the Arab Nation at large have done all they could to open the door for just peace in the Middle East region but have been rebuffed by the Israelis who rejected also all international bids for restoring stability in the area. The paper also echoed the King's views about the Soviet Jewish immigration into Palestine backed by the United States, and said that the absorption of more Jews to be settled in Arab lands can only lead to further deterioration of the situation and to creating new tensions in the area.

Euphoria fades, analysts say summit produced little results

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — As the Euphoria of the Washington summit dissolves, some analysts are saying the meetings between President Mikhail Gorbachev and President George Bush produced little beyond a media jamboree and a lot of hyperbole.

"Never have so many said so much about so little. The fact is there really was nothing that wasn't prepared and agreed beforehand," said Uri Ra'anani, a professor of Soviet studies at Boston University.

"They have trivialised summits into how much the leaders and their wives like each other. This was from beginning to end a non-event," he said.

At their final news conference Sunday, Bush and Gorbachev acknowledged that they were still divided on two central points — whether a unified Germany should be a full member of NATO and how to handle nationalist aspirations of the Baltic republics.

There was little visible sign of movement on regional conflicts like Afghanistan and the Middle East or on crucial conventional arms reduction talks for Europe.

But the leaders said they had at least gained a better understanding of each other's position and developed a warm personal rapport.

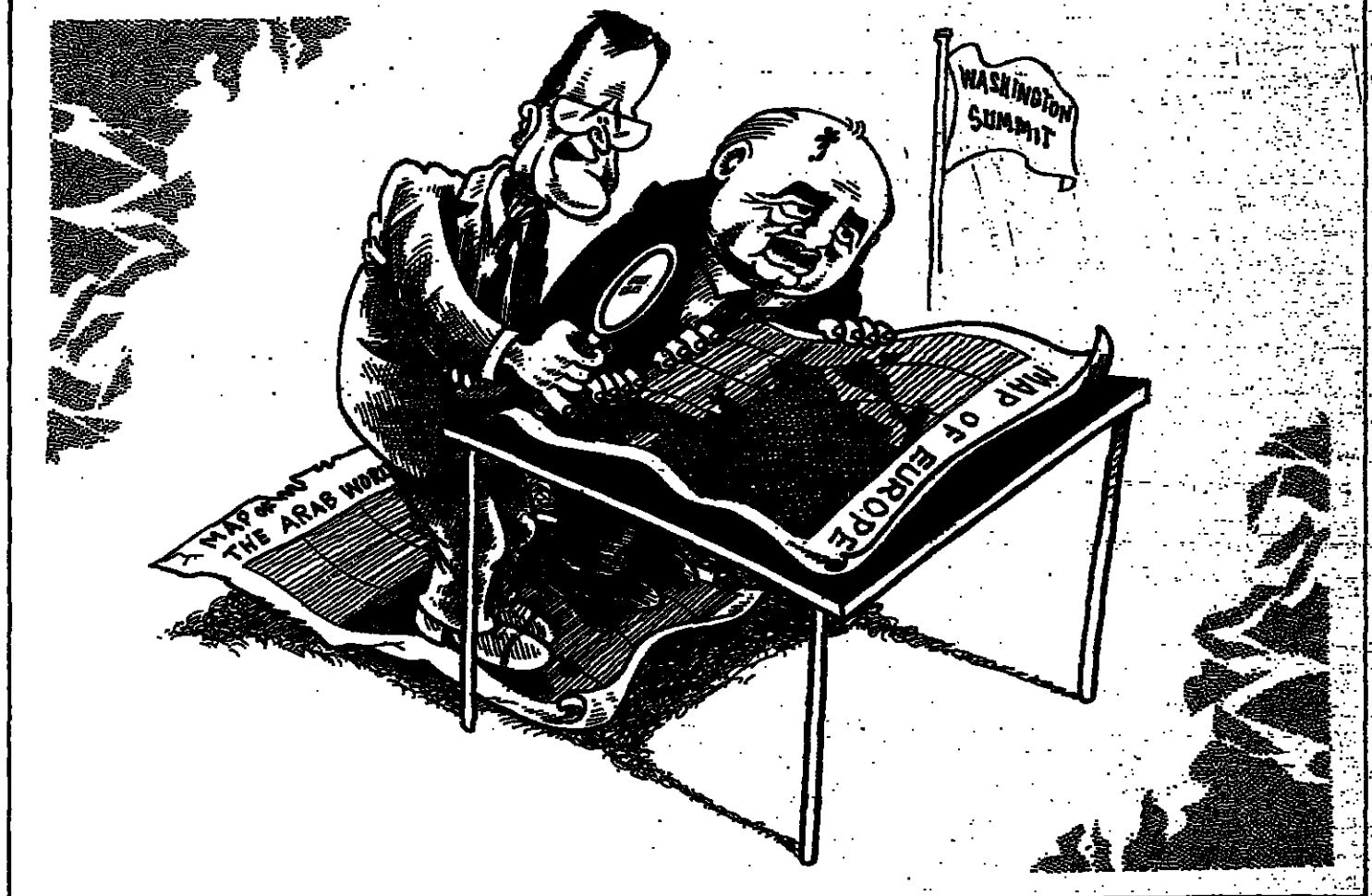
For some commentators, the idea that personal friendship between leaders should influence the course of superpower relations is worrying in itself.

"We got nothing except the so-called personal relationship. Just when Gorbachev is sinking further and further, this is no time for Bush to be bragging about his personal relationship with this particular politician," said Kim Holmes, director of political and defence studies at the conservative Heritage Foundation.

He and other right-wing analysts criticised Bush for making what they described as the only concession at the summit — signing a trade agreement with Gorbachev that did not link the granting of most-favoured-nation (MFN) status to a resolution of the Baltic crisis.

Bush made it clear that for him at least, MFN was conditional only on passage of Soviet emigration legislation and not on independence for Lithuania.

Others saw the summit in a more positive light.



West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said it has improved conditions for German unification and encouraged confidence that the question of German membership of NATO would be sorted out in time.

Richard Fieldhouse, a military analyst with the Natural Resources Defence Council, approaching the summit with a

more left-wing view, said it was disingenuous to analyse it merely in terms of the four days of discussions in Washington.

"Part of the reason for scheduling the summit was to give the arms control negotiators a deadline to complete START (strategic arms reduction treaty)," he said.

Fieldhouse argued that without the deadline, the eight years of negotiations may have dragged on for even longer. Setting a public target date meant that anything less than agreement would have been viewed by the world as failure.

In fact, not all the problems in START were ironed out in time.

But enough were for the presidents to sign an agreement laying out the actual document by the end of this year.

Both the Washington Post and New York Times took a positive view of the proceedings, arguing that the summit was another milestone in the transformation of superpower relations from rivalry to cooperation.

Enmeshed in a tangled web

By David McDowall

The International Relations of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Edited by Augustus Richard Norton and Martin H Greenberg. Southern Illinois University Press 1989, \$34.95.

THE ESSAYS in this book set out to give a taste of the cross-currents with which the PLO has learnt to deal, in the Palestinian, Arab and Islamic (Iran) arenas, and beyond these in the Communist world (USSR and China) and in the Third World (Latin America).

Rashid Khalidi lucidly explains how the PLO has emerged as the only credible representative of the Palestinian people, how as an organisation it has largely overcome or contained the very serious ideological disagreements between constituent members, and how, despite the fact that its leaders are all in exile, the PLO successfully welded those under occupation and those in the diaspora into one national movement. No mean feat, as PLO leaders know better than any, and one which can only be safeguarded by constant maintenance and repair.

It is remarkable how easily the popular image of the PLO as a revolutionary leftist organisation took root in the West, despite the fact that its dominant faction, Fateh, is politically quite conservative. Western governments, of course, have known this for the last twenty years but because they did not want to see a Palestinian state materialise on the West Bank, they often did little to dissociate themselves from the propaganda of Israel of the crude reasoning of the tabloid press.

With such difficulties with its adversaries, it could have done with more reliable friends. However, since its earliest days, the PLO has been painfully aware that it plays poker with its allies as well as its foes. Its independence from various Arab states that would subordinate it to their will has been achieved by dint of finely judged skill and timing, or when these went wrong, by sheer good fortune. At times the game seemed to be up, most dramatically under Syrian siege in Tripoli in 1983.

The PLO's struggle to pursue its objectives and thwart those who wished to undermine these are outlined in an article by R.D. McLaurin. But one must be uneasy at some of his judgements. It is surely naive to suppose Israel wished to support Lebanon against the PLO. Its violent acts (blowing up civil aircraft at Beirut airport and blitzing Shi'ite villages) were strange ways indeed to uphold the credibility of the Lebanese government. It is also his view that the PLO "has always been most powerful when it was an instrument of state policy, and weakest when it acted alone." I could hardly disagree more. It ignores the centrality of

the Palestinian people palpably demonstrated through the intifada.

Could the PLO have made more use of Muslim, non-Arab states — ideologically supportive but less enmeshed in the Arab region's tangled web? Such misjudgements as the support of liberation groups (e.g. Turkish Kurds and the Iranian Mujahadeen-Khalq) may have cost it important opportunities with Muslim countries which had no interest in subordinating the PLO (unlike front-line Arab states). But it is questionable what substantial use it could have made of its relations with Iran (which became complicated not only by the tension between nationalist and Islamic revolution but also on account of the war with Iraq — not to mention the tricky matter of Lebanon's Shi'ites); or with Turkey for which the NATO (and particularly U.S.) relationship has taken firm priority.

BOOK REVIEW

Beyond the Muslim East, the rules of the game were quickly established with both China and the USSR. Only a fool would have believed that either would have pursued "revolutionary ideology" to the manifest detriment of its own political and military interests. The PLO has always known that its relations with Moscow are directly affected by the relative importance not only of Syria, but also of the current state of Superpower rivalry. It could have come as no surprise that China was secretly purchasing equipment from Israel. The greatest difficulty for the PLO, perhaps, was to maintain the optimum balance in its relations between the USSR and China when relations between these two states were so sour.

One of the more revealing articles, by Adam Zagorin, discusses PLO finance. The Palestine National Fund, the central funding source of the PLO, divides its resources fairly equally between guns and butter, an indication that the PLO is well aware that in the long run all armies, however inspired, must march on their stomachs — in this case of a whole people. But the enormous financial structure is also a widespread, entrenched, network of patronage — with obviously corrupting influence, particularly when it is set alongside the sacrificial process necessary in the intifada. Some, as Zagorin shows, would like to revolutionise PLO financing, to tighten bureaucratic belts and to provide more sharply honed and effective support in the front line of the struggle, the territories. It is open to question whether this will happen. Yet it is here, in its role within the intifada, that the real test for the PLO lies.

Killings stop, but fear still grips Sri Lanka

By Andrew Browne
Reuters

COLOMBO — Sri Lankans called them "chicken farms" because they produced a regular supply of "broilers."

The "farms" were detention camps run by the military where suspected rebels were held during a left-wing insurgency that almost toppled the government.

At night, unmarked jeeps would drive through the gates, armed men would jump out, bundle a group of detainees into the vehicle and drive off into the darkness.

The next morning, a pile of corpses smouldering on car tyres would be found by the side of a road. These were the "broilers."

Walking through Colombo now it is hard to imagine that just a few months ago Sri Lanka was a killing ground where death squads were fighting a rebellion with cold terror.

A curfew has been lifted in the capital and troops are off the streets. With the Sinhalese guerrilla movement, the People's Liberation Front (JVP), apparently

crushed, the island celebrated May Day and its most holy Buddhist festival in high style last month.

On Colombo's Galle Face Green, a popular seaside promenade, a Soviet cultural troupe at a state-funded party entertained the crowds with juggling and acrobatics.

"It's as though nothing ever happened," said a leading human rights campaigner.

"This should be a time for prayer and remembrance. But no, the government organises musical evenings in the villages, and competitions, and marathon runs," she said.

Colombo residents say the party atmosphere masks an all-pervasive fear.

Mass killings have stopped, but the threat of violence hangs over the island, muzzling the voices of dissent, silencing journalists and artists and preventing Sri Lankans from confronting the horrors of their recent past.

At the height of the violence

late last year, an average of 50 bodies was found each day.

Diplomats say 8,500 people are known to have died in the carnage, but the real figure could be double that.

"Everybody who was going to be killed has been killed," said one Western envoy.

Colombo's middle-classes watched while left-wing rebels terrorised villages and anonymous "broilers" burned on country roads in retaliation. But they were shaken by the murder in February of Richard de Zoysa, an outspoken journalist and celebrated actor and poet.

One night an unmarked jeep drew up to de Zoysa's house in a plush suburb of Colombo and armed men dragged him away. His mother, a doctor, watched her son disappear and two days later was called to identify his body, which was found floating in the sea, shot through the head and neck.

The initial government medical report said: "No foul play is suspected."

"Look," said a former civil

servant, now retired, "You speak out and you're dead. It's as simple as that. They come in jeeps and take you away and kill you."

Before his death de Zoysa was involved in a play, a searing satire aimed at President Ranasinghe Premadasa, about a lunatic asylum and the doctor in charge.

The day before its scheduled premiere, the producer mysteriously vanished, never to appear again, and the show was stopped.

De Zoysa's death is still the hottest topic of conversation in the drawing rooms of suburban Colombo, earnestly discussed over glasses of sherry and elegant dinners.

Few dare express their anger openly. The killers are trying to silence his grief-stricken mother who is pressing for a full judicial enquiry.

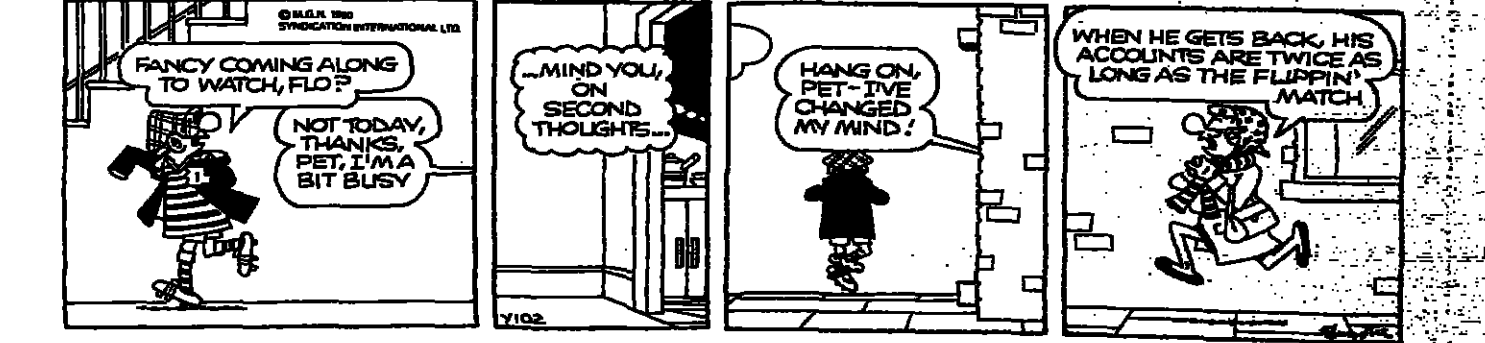
"Mourn the death of your son, as a mother you must do so," said a handwritten letter mailed to her in May. "Any other steps will result in your death at the most unexpected time. Security guards... cannot protect you."

"Only silence will protect your head."

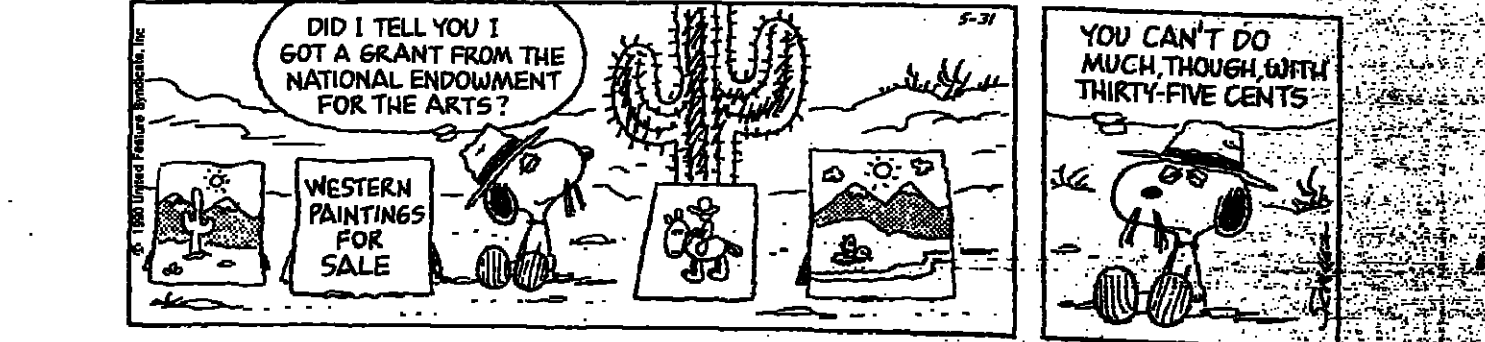
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Jordan Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

June 7, 1990 A

The art of silk-weaving revived

By Clare Pedrick

LYON, France — In heart of the bustling Croix-Rousse district, a towering statue of inventor Charles-Marie Jacquard pays tribute to the man who became the symbol of this city's once thriving silk industry.

Less than a block away, a workshop run by a handful of artisans is breathing new life into an art that once employed one in five people in Lyon. La Maison des Canuts — the House of the Silk Weavers — is a working museum where craftsmen use ancient techniques to produce some of Europe's most richly decorated silk fabrics.

The workshop is small, with just 10 people; a drop in the ocean when compared with the 30,000 workers employed at any one time during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, when Lyon was one of the world's most prolific silk capitals. "Our trade union must be the smallest in the world," remarks weaver Ludovic de la Calle. "There are just five of us. The other five didn't want to join."

In spite of its small size, the workshop has already carried out restoration work for silk hangings and upholstery at the Palace of Versailles, the Louvre, in Paris, and the Palace at Britain's Hampton Court. Just as important, say the weavers, the workshop has enabled thousands of visitors from all over the globe to watch one of the world's oldest crafts crafts being practised on original machines that are themselves centuries old.

At 34, Ludovic de la Calle is one of the youngest of the artisans. He studied for three years at Lyon's Ecole de Tissage, a textile institute that nowadays is mainly devoted to modern manmade fabrics.

The theory learned, De la Calle had spent five years working as an apprentice to one of the few remaining weavers still in the business. "I wanted to do something creative, and coming from Lyon, which was once so important in the silk trade, this seemed a natural choice," he said. "Later, the few of us working in the business had the idea of setting up the

workshop as a way of preserving what was fast becoming a dying art."

In a room packed with ancient bobbin-winding machines and spinning wheels, visitors learn how the silkworm spins its thread — up to 1,000 metres for each cocoon — and how skeins are washed and dyed in the oldest of traditions. Next door, the workshop itself is a hive of activity, with giant wooden looms clanking away as the weavers press foot pedals and pull levers on machines that look as though they could have come straight out of a Heath Robinson drawing.

The work itself is extremely intricate. Preparation involves threading the loom with a meter-wide skein made up of hundreds of separate fine threads that are fed from a bewildering array of reels lined up on spools at the far end of the machine. Hand-made patterns are first drawn on paper and then transferred onto pieces of perforated cardboard before being fed into the machine from above.

"The hardest part is setting it all up," said De la Calle. "It can often take more than a day. The good thing is that with these machines, the only limitation is your own imagination. You can design literally anything you want. The drawback is that you can't afford to go back and correct any errors you may have made."

The Jacquard loom, named for its 18th-century inventor, revolutionised silk production, speeding up the weaving process and making the rich fabric available to a much wider market than before. Even so, weaving is still a painstaking process, requiring endless patience and attention to detail from the operator. Changes in pattern are achieved by inserting a series of rods before cutting the threads to a preset design.

An experienced weaver can produce 40 centimetres of Jacquard silk in a working day. Richly embroidered silk brocade can be woven only at the snail's pace of 10 centimetres per day. It can easily take more than a year to finish one length of cloth for a hanging or a piece of upholstery. The Chambre du Roi (king's bedroom) at the Palace of Versailles took 20 years to complete.

Not surprisingly, the fabric is extremely expensive to buy, around 12,000 French francs (\$2,080) per metre. "We do

get some private buyers who make special orders for upholstery coverings, but most of our work is restoration," said De la Calle. "It's thanks to places like Versailles that the industry is undergoing a mini-revival. It has made sure the traditional techniques are carried on and that young people continue to be trained in the craft."

Today the weavers of Lyon import their silk thread from China, which still produces the cheapest and best-quality raw materials, they say. In the old days the weavers of Croix-Rousse used thread spun from silkworms raised on mulberry trees, which were once planted all over southern France.

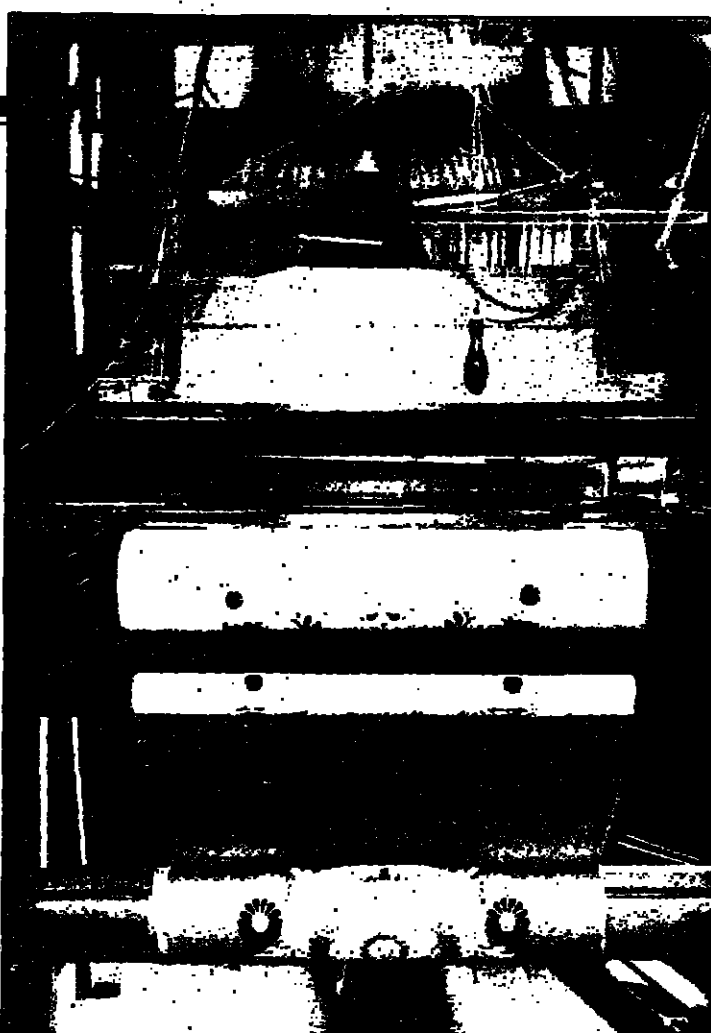
Lyon owed its prominence as a silk producer to its geographical position in the south-eastern corner of France, close to the Alpine border with Italy. In the 16th century the French King Francois I invited Italy to send its best weavers to settle in Lyon from the northern Italian town of Como, then the silk capital of Europe.

"He also, very wisely, invited the famous Italian bankers to come to Lyon," De la Calle said. "The two activities have always gone hand in hand."

Italian silk weavers continued to dominate in design, but the craftsmen of Lyon eventually surpassed in output and in the techniques that they developed to improve production. In its heyday, in the mid-19th century, the Croix-Rousse district contained 60,000 looms turning out silk.

The evolution of silk-fabric design in Lyon is traced in a museum in the centre of town, the Musée Historique des Tissus (Textile Museum). Here, in more than 30 showrooms, the history of silk is told. A large section is devoted to the French industry, with examples of Jacquards, satins, silks worked with gold and silver threads, fine taffetas and heavy damasks and brocades.

In other rooms the earlier history of the industry is explored, with rare Coptic fabrics and tapestries, silks dating to 1000 A.D. woven by the Byzantine and Islamic civilisations of the Mediterranean and a dazzling assortment of silk Persian and Turkish carpets, dating from the 15th to the 18th centuries, that depict ancient legends, flowers and hunting scenes — World News Link.



Using ancient looms, a young group of French craftsmen produce the rich fabrics which have made Lyon famous.

The history of silk

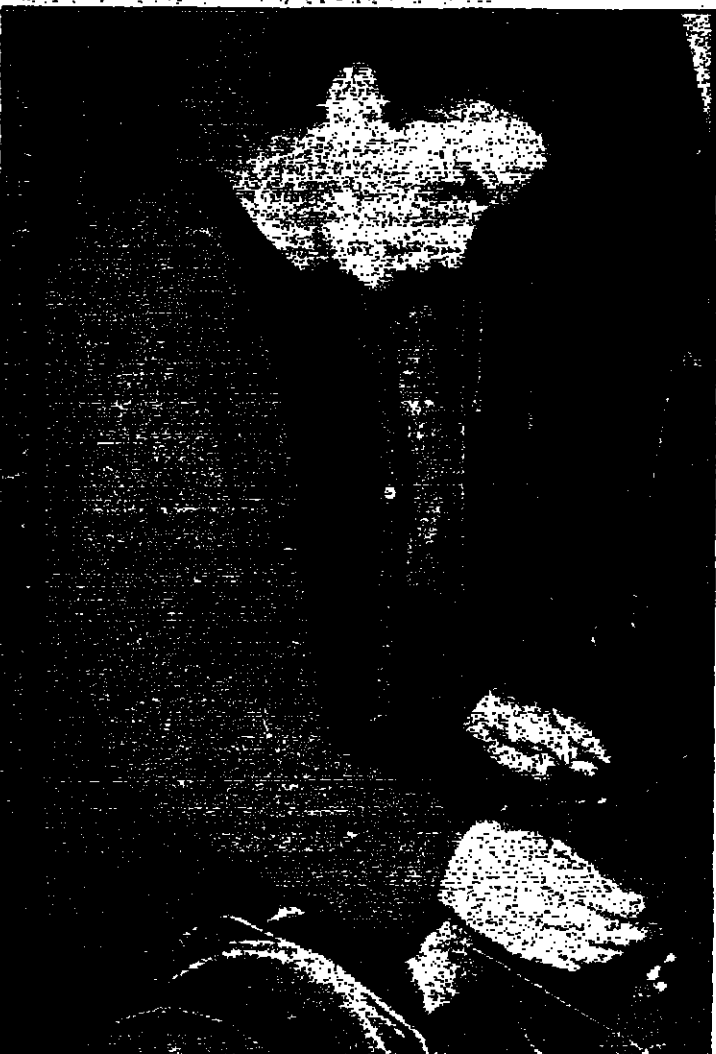
LEGEND has it that the first person to discover the precious secret of the silkworm was the wife of Chinese Emperor Huang Ti (the Yellow Emperor), back in 2690 B.C. for centuries the fabric was reserved for members of the imperial court, and exporting the silkworm abroad was a crime punishable by death.

In the 3rd century B.C. the Chinese began to export the highly prized cloth to India, Japan and other Asian countries. Prices were exorbitant — silk was virtually worth its weight in gold. Although the silk went abroad, the secret of how it was made continued to be closely guarded.

In the last decade of the century, soldiers of Alexander the Great discovered the silk cloth during their conquest of Persia and took fragments back home to Greece. The fabric reached Italy two centuries later, around 100 B.C., but its source still remained a mystery.

China's monopoly on silk production came to an end in the 3rd century A.D., when Chinese emigrants living in Japan managed to smuggle out some silkworms. Although silk manufacture soon spread to eastern India, the secret was kept from the Europeans. Then, in the 6th century, two Persian monks working as missionaries in India hid some silkworm larvae in their hollow bamboo walking sticks and took them to the Roman emperor, Justinian. The emperor ordered the planting of mulberry trees in various parts of the Roman Empire.

In Italy, silk-making soon became a flourishing industry. The Italians gave their own stamp to the art, inventing a new fabric — velvet. Italian design and creativity in the production of sumptuous silks was to reach its peak in the fertile of the Renaissance. In 1536 French King Francois I offered Italian silk weavers generous rewards if they would come and teach their craft to the people of Lyon. Workshops were set up in the Croix-Rousse district of the city, and Lyon flourished. The city's preeminence lasted nearly three centuries. Its death knell was sounded by the arrival of synthetic fabrics — World News Link.



Ludovic de la Calle enjoys the freedom of design allowed by the old looms that revolutionised the silk industry in the 18th century.

Jerusalem in History — heavy beat of a muffled drum

By Alistair Duncan

Jerusalem in History
Edited by K.J. Asali
Published by Scorpion Publications Ltd.
295 pages. Retail price £13.95

THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF Jerusalem is among the most extensive in the world, and encompasses, on the one hand, extremes of fantasy, banality and mischievous propaganda. On the other hand, it is at its best a daunting array of scholarship too diverse and complex for the general reader to hope to assimilate. This is clearly indicated in this book by the reference notes at the end of each of its nine chapters and the quoted bibliography at its end. There is also a simplified but useful index. Full marks, therefore, for a clear, concise and compact presentation by the editor and the publisher.

The passage of history and its examination enables the first eight chapters to be written by experts in each period, whose scholarship has been welded into a simply presented and cohesive whole by the skill of the editor, Dr. Asali and the publisher's editors, Leonard Harrow and John Orley. These eight accounts are factual and encapsulate each period without polemic. This is particularly valuable in chapter II, in which Professor Mendenhall covers the turbulent period from David to the first Roman investment of the city in 33 pages.

It is, perhaps, the last chapter IX which will understandably excite the most intense interest amongst general readers. No

need for this reviewer to rehearse the well-known arguments and positions adopted since 1917 by Arabs, Jews and their respective supporters, who have adjusted their backing from time to time to suit their own wider interests. This is the added complication that has helped the "Palestine issue" to dominate the politics of the Levant, the Middle East and indeed global interests from time to time, which for all practical purposes originated at the turn of the century with the writings of Herzl.

BOOK REVIEW

Professor Hudson treats surely and fairly through the minefield of claim and counter-claim. It is a turbulent phase, most of all for the present "victors" who choose to live by the sword amongst the remaining indigenous population, upon whom they seem content to visit so much of the horror which they themselves experienced in Europe. Nor has Britain's role as a declining influence in world affairs, been able to live up to obligations recognised but not realisable in the face of the U.S.'s seemingly blind support for Israel as her Cold War ally. This, however, is a role which must now be subject to some revision as not only America's previous enemies, but the Arab states move towards democratic structures.

Professor Hudson's dispassionate account of the inexorable steps that takes the reader from 1917 to 1987 has the heavy beat of a muffled drum. The new messianic drive of Zionism

was facilitated in the early days by discord amongst Arab governments, whose heaviest weapon was undoubtedly rhetoric. By the time this was replaced by military competence and more realistic policies, Israel's nuclear capacity, achieved largely by the voluntary and involuntary support of the US, remained a trump card against the UN and other attempts to resolve the issue on a just and honourable basis.

There can be no conclusion in this book. However, one can reasonably say that resolution may well be found when faith transcends religion and doctrinal differences are mutually recognised and respected. Trade and commerce, the languages which need no interpreter, would then flourish and the politics would adjust themselves to suit all parties. At the risk of being accused of wishful thinking, post eventum, could it not be envisaged that if the Zionist movement had elected to play its part in the triconfessional state of Palestine proposed by the League of Nations, later to be endorsed by the UNO, and based upon the administration set up by the mandate government, there would still be Jewish leaders and men of renown in Arab capitals. The rich cultural and commercial contributors of the Jewish communities in the Maghreb, the Levant and the Mashreq would have remained in place.

This book fulfills its title role with modest clarity. The section of 28 half-tone photographs is a useful addition, and a second edition will correct the caption of plate 14 to read "east" and not "south"! It will long remain a first class ready reference on the bookshelves of those concerned with the history and welfare of this Holy City.

UNWITTINGLY of course, your favourite newspaper, the Jordan Times, lent itself to an American argument that the press everywhere, and not just the American press, could be unbalanced, biased or downright misinformative. Upon meeting a U.S. delegation recently, Jordanian parliamentarians, led by Speaker Suleiman Arar, raised a complaint about how American media were getting their facts mixed up, and worse still, particularly when it came to reporting and commenting on the Arab side of affairs in the Middle East conflict. Former Senator Charles Percy, head of the visiting U.S. delegation, came back with a rejoinder. He pointed out that the press everywhere, and not just the U.S. media, has its shortcomings. He gave as an example the Jordan Times, which reporting on his and his team's peace mission, had misidentified him as a long-time leader of the Democratic Party, when in fact the senator had always been a Republican. The Jordanian parliamentarians, or some of them at least, might have been impressed by Percy's witty, give-the-two-sides story that he mentioned. Not us though. Percy was indeed a sensible senator who did his best to balance Middle East policies in his house on Capitol Hill. So much so in fact that the Israeli lobby went after and got his neck as the price for his even-handed approach. But to compare our little, inadvertent mistake here at the Jordan Times with the generally, but perpetually, biased coverage of Arab policies by some major media organs in the U.S. is very unfair. Senator Percy and his peace delegation are always welcome in Jordan of course. But, please guys, try comparisons that really can stand the test of time.

THE U.S. government, in its efforts to make America better understood abroad, has established what is called the "international visitor programme." In the programme, selected professionals, writers, journalists and others get invited to the U.S. for a few weeks to get acquainted with the system of government or with certain issues and institutions there. Programmes take the participants into the world of politics and legislation and explain the lobbying system as well as the interaction of the media with government agencies among many other things. What the Americans apparently hope to achieve from these programmes is to bring about a better understanding of the United States and perhaps even attempt to reverse any negative feelings that the participants may have acquired of the U.S. Well, one of our colleagues in the Jordan Times' Arabic sister, Al Ra'i, was the guest of one of those programmes last month. Upon his return earlier this week, he wrote a long column entitled "In Uncle Sam's Country" in which he extolled the value of his tour in five states and spoke highly of the individual Americans and institutions he met with and visited during his stay there. However, he concluded his column by saying: "I want to say that I went to the United States convinced that it was the number one enemy of the Arab World, and here I come back even more convinced that this is true, for the saying that 'America is Israel and Israel is America' does not come from a void at all." The conclusion must have gone down very well with many of Amayreh's readers on Al Ra'i's pages, especially coming as the article did right after the U.S. veto against sending a U.N. fact-finding mission to the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. But what about the reaction of the Americans — those who hosted and invited him in the first place? What do they say to that? We really don't know the answers. Nor have we attempted to find one. But most probably the Americans will say: "This is American democracy for you." Our only hope is that U.S. officials do not get so discouraged by Amayreh's article that they would actually consider cancelling all visitor visas to travel to the U.S.

SPEAKING of the United States and those who have less than positive feelings towards American policies towards the Middle East, Dr. Abdul Razzaq Nsour, mayor of Salt, recently turned down an official invitation to visit the U.S. and attend a mayors' conference there. His decision came in protest against "biased" U.S. policies towards the Palestinian problem and the Arab World in general. When questioned about this decision, American embassy officials looked around, thought a little about it and then said: "It is a pity. The mayor's presence might have contributed towards changing American perceptions and images of Jordan and the Arab World. He could have used the trip and the conference as a forum to explain the Arab point of view, instead of boycotting America per se." So far, so good. But for a counter view, please see the item on the results of another Jordanian's visit to the U.S. above. Incidentally, the other Jordanian, like the mayor, comes from Salt.

IT WILL not only be a departure from Jordan for Dr. Renate Schimkoreit-Pott, first secretary at the West German embassy, when she leaves the Kingdom next week after a two-year tenure in Amman; it will also mean a temporary separation from her husband, Marcel Pott, head of the West German broadcasting network's (ARD) Middle East bureau which is based in the Jordanian capital. Perhaps the consolation for Dr. Schimkoreit-Pott is that she will be assuming a senior albeit undisclosed post at the Foreign Ministry. But the separation could be a bit prolonged from the look of things around here in Amman, since her husband does not appear to be entertaining any idea of leaving Jordan any time soon. Well, good luck to Renata in Bonn. As for Marcel, his many friends in Jordan and the Middle East will certainly be trying to make his stay as little unpleasant and lonely as possible in his wife's absence. Mind you Marcel will also have a lot of political developments to watch and follow which will keep him busy most of the time. The Middle East is back in the news again.

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

- The world war after the next one will be fought with rocks.
— Albert Einstein, German-born physicist (1879-1955).
- Eating words has never given me indigestion.
— Sir Winston Churchill, British Statesman (1874-1965).
- Life is like an onion. You peel it off one layer at a time, and sometimes you weep.
— Carl Sandburg, U.S. poet (1878-1967)
- The world is a comedy to those who think, a tragedy to those who feel.
— Horace Walpole, English statesman (1678-1757).
- Self conquest is the greatest of victories.
— Plato, Greek philosopher about 427 B.C.-347 B.C.

Norween Murad

JTV Channel 2 Weekly Preview

Thursday, June 7

8:30 The Cosby Show

Husband and kids celebrate Clara's 46th birthday and never give her a moment to forget that she's become closer to 50.

9:10 WBA Basketball

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie of the Week
The Reluctant Agent Inc.

Starring:
Richard Lawson

Charlene and Linda are twin sisters, and since they are so different, they decide to switch roles. Linda gets entangled in a spying game for the Feds. And helps nail drug — dealer Gabriel.

Friday, June 8

8:30 Didi's Comedy Show

Didi is about to get married — at church he discovers he forgot the marriage rings locked inside the car. Didi tries hard to retrieve it but to little avail. Too late his bride to be already gives birth to a child.

9:10 Beauty and the Beast

Vincint is still haunted by the disappearance of his son. To get a glimpse of his son he does something drastic — he surrenders to his enemies.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Quincy

For love of Joshua

A pediatrician is a firm believer in the right of every newly born child — regardless of physical deformities — to live. Quincy supports this wholeheartedly.



A scene from Blind Faith, Monday 10:20: Robert Marshall (Robert Ulrich) is put behind bars.

Saturday, June 9

8:30 Surgical Spirit

One of the doctors decides to get married to a colleague, Sheila does not take kindly to this and harasses Jonathan about this whole deal.

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Musical Programme

10:00 World Cup

Italy vs. Austria

11:45 Allo... Allo...

The French resistance movement is trying to sneak downed British pilots out of France and the Gestapo is doing its best to stop them just how gullible could they get?

Sunday, June 10

8:30 Hey Dad

Jeanie buys a mouse of the biting kind. The new secretary is naive; daddy hits his car and Debbie is always on the phone. Now what kind of a family is this?

9:10 Documentary

England vs. Ireland

Tuesday, June 12

8:30 Charles in Charge

Charles is unable to do his homework because Sara is sad she lost her toy, Jamie is having problems with her date, and Buddy is experimenting... now how can anyone work under such circumstances!

8:55 A Horseman Riding By

The war changes things around. New characters come into the scene. Some get married, new friendships get established and more dramatic events unfold.

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

Netherlands vs. Egypt

Wednesday, June 13

8:30 Golden Girls

On a cozy winter evening the 3 women start remembering some fond memories which happened in the same room. Remembering the past brings them closer to each other.

8:55 Documentary

The Nuclear Age

The cold war between the two superpowers intensifies, especially when Soviet Union penetrates the Western hemisphere through Cuba. The Cuban missile crisis ends when Soviet Union removes its weapons from Cuba.

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

Argentina vs. USSR

Long hair heralds return of Passion Play

By Richard Meares
Reuter

OBERAMMERGAU, West Germany — In a tiny mountain village in Bavaria, nearly half the men have grown long shaggy hair and unkempt beards to face an invasion force half a million strong.

The early Christian look is a must for any man taking part in the world-famous Passion play which opens Monday in Oberammergau, 100 kilometres south of Munich.

While the men have been following custom, the women have staged a coup with the backing of the play's rebellious new director, Christian Stueckl.

Stueckl, an outspoken 28-year-old decided to modernise the tradition-bound version of Christ's betrayal and death which is staged once a decade to keep a vow made by villagers after they survived an outbreak of black plague in 1333.

Ignoring a rule that actresses had to be under 35 and single, he chose Elisabeth Petre, a 38-year-old married mother of two, as one of two women playing Mary, Jesus's mother.

To the outrage of traditionalists, other women barred under the rule challenged it in the courts and won. More than 250 of them got parts.

The traditionalists fought back, thwarting most of Stueckl's plans to modernise the text, the set design and the costume.

The "passionsspiel", staged solely by local amateurs, is acted five times a week until September. It sold out months ago and will bring half a million tourists to the village.



Oberammergau prepares for the Passion Play

Nearly half the 5,000 residents help to put on its 14 acts and 60 scenes, which take all day to perform. They get special time off from their jobs, which outsiders come in to do.

Village squabbles are nothing new to the play. "As soon as Oberammergauers stop arguing, the Passion Play would fall flat," said Ernst Maria Lang, whose father was director from 1920 to 1960.

A more serious debate rages over charges of anti-Semitism in the text, written in 1811 by a local Catholic priest, Othmar Weiss, and revised half a century later. Adolf Hitler approved it as a "convincing portrayal of the menace of Jewry."

Since American Jews launched a boycott 20 years ago, the stereotyping of Jews and lines blaming them for the death of Christ have been watered down or removed.

The rows have not put off tourists. Pre-tax profits of more than eight million marks (\$5 million) were made by a special 1984 production marking 350 years since the first. In 1680, the play moved to the start of each decade.

It was initially enacted in the graveyard, but a 4,700-seat open-air playhouse was built at the turn of this century. A meadow-covered mountain forms a natural backdrop.

The playhouse is surrounded by shops selling row upon row of Virgin Marys and other wood carvings, the traditional trade of Oberammergau.

Such lucrative spin-offs have led to criticism of the over-commercialisation of what is still, for most of those taking part, a deeply religious event.



A scene from the 1960 production

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Saturday, June 9

68 — Roman Emperor Nero commits suicide.

1572 — Turkish fleet puts to sea against Don John of Austria to complete capture of Cyprus.

1800 — Austrians are defeated by French in Battle of Montebello, Italy.

1827 — Turkey rejects allied note for truce with Greece.

1896 — Russo-Japanese agreement recognises Russia's position in Korea.

1915 — Severe riots break out in Moscow.

1916 — Grand Sheriff of Mecca revolts against Turkey.

1940 — Norway's army surrenders to Nazis in World War II.

1961 — United Nations calls on Portugal to cease repressive measures in Angola.

1967 — Gamal Abdul Nasser resigns as president of Egypt after his country is defeated in war with Israel.

1972 — U.S. planes raid perimeters of Hanoi and Haiphong in most concentrated bombing of North Vietnam's military heartland in more than four years.

1975 — Philippines establishes diplomatic relations with China, breaking its ties with Nationalist Chinese government on Taiwan.

1984 — Heavy damage and casualties are reported as Iran and Iraq trade air attacks on residential areas across their 1,180-kilometre border.

1987 — Western leaders, at summit in Venice, renounce making deals with terrorists and endorse nuclear deterrence.

1989 — Two bombs blow up seconds apart on main seaside boulevard in Syrian-controlled west Beirut, killing three people and wounding four others.

Sunday, June 10

1610 — First Dutch settlers in America land on Manhattan Island.

1719 — Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI expels Spaniards from Sicily.

1794 — Power of French revolutionary tribunals is increased, leading to mass executions.

1848 — Austrian forces are victorious at Vicenza in Italy against Sardinians.

1868 — Michael III, King of Serbia, is murdered, and is succeeded by Milan IV.

1891 — L. Starr Jameson becomes administrator of South Africa company's areas.

1898 — U.S. Marines invade Cuba in Spanish-American war.

1903 — King Alexander I

and Queen Draga of Serbia are murdered.

1907 — Japan and France agree to preserve "open door" in China.

1917 — Sinn Fein riots break out in Dublin, Ireland.

1967 — Israel agrees to United Nations ceasefire with Egypt, with Israel holding conquered territory four times its own size.

1971 — United States lifts 21-year-old embargo on trade with China.

1988 — Riot police in South Korea block thousands of students trying to march to North Korea for reunification talks.

1989 — Police arrest 1,000 people in Seoul, Korea, as radical students battle riot police in demand for overthrow of President Roh Tae-Woo.

Monday, June 11

1509 — Troops of Florence take Pisa in Italy.

1675 — France and Poland form an alliance.

1685 — Duke of Monmouth's rebellion breaks out in England.

1719 — Spanish invaders of Scotland are defeated at Glen-shields and surrender.

1891 — Britain and Portugal sign further convention of territories north and south of Zambesi: Portugal assigns

Barotseland to Britain and Nysaland becomes a British protectorate.

1895 — Britain annexes Togoland to block Transvaal's access to sea.

1898 — Emperor Te Tsung of China begins 100 days of reform under guidance of Kang Yu-Wei.

1940 — Princess Juliana of the Netherlands arrives in Canada as an exile during World War II.

1963 — Greek Premier Constantine Caramanlis resigns in protest of King Paul's state visit to Britain.

1969 — Soviet and Chinese troops clash on Sinkiang border.

1971 — Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid I. Brezhnev calls for end to arms race between U.S. and USSR.

1981 — Earthquake in southeast Iran kills at least 1,500 people.

1984 — His Majesty King Hussein says the United States is disqualified as a peacemaker in Middle East and that an international conference is only way to settle disputes.

1988 — Syrian-backed dissidents battle with loyalists of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at two devastated refugee camps in West Beirut.

By the Associated Press

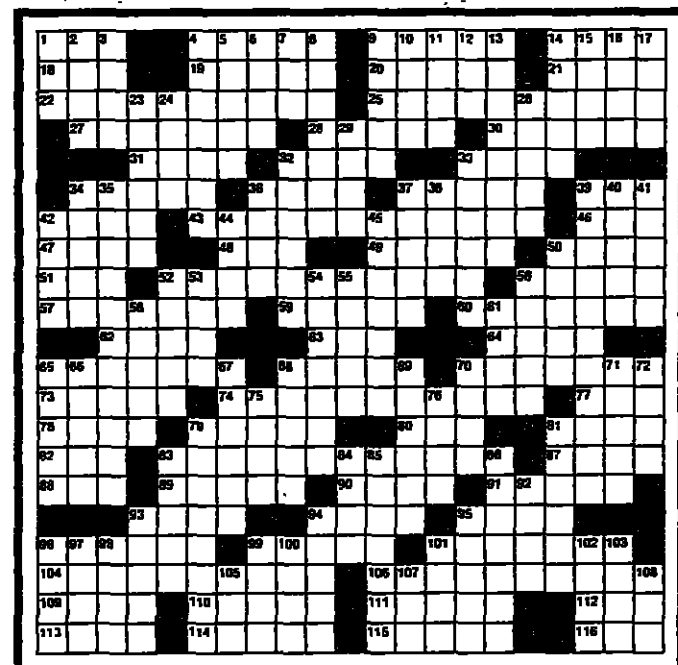
Weekend Crossword

Edited by Herb Etnelson

Stuff and Nonsense
By Elizabeth Arkler

ACROSS
1 Globe
4 Stradivarius' cousin
9 Mystic
14 Slovenly one
18 Diamond —
19 Gr. physician
20 Lute some floors
21 Sped
22 Glibberish
23 Hom
27 Mobile home
28 Messages
30 Loos and Brian
31 Wt art colony
32 Remander
33 Penicillin
34 Clipped
36 Yarn

37 Alien resident of old Greece
38 Place or bath
42 Arabian
43 Mumbo Jumbo
44 — carle
45 Fairy queen
46 Gussy up
50 Exposed backgammon
51 Viral disease
52 Devotion to the US
56 Riggs or Ross
57 Advanced study group
59 — law
60 Bargain hunter



DOWN
1 Venerable
2 Dromybrook
3 Obscure
4 Everlasting
5 Penny officials
6 Controversial apple spray
7 Avo
8 Where to dig a quill
9 Type off
10 Clean
11 Skating milieu
12 Blunt or Gibson
13 Thinking process
14 One of a flight
15 Boor
16 Killer whale
17 Steppes' ocean
23 Home for majorettes
24 Andalus

26 Noah
29 It's clear to me
30 Congregation leaders
33 Hages
34 "There is — of pure delights" (Walt Whitman)
35 Newby bits
36 Feeding of 5,000
37 Physician
38 Self-important attitudes
39 Ludicrous
40 Without help
41 Golden Horde member
42 Blockheads
43 Heb. measure
46 Biblical tribe members
50 Two-footed
52 Old-womanish

61 JFK and FDR
62 A Cold
63 Lulu
64 Alcazar engine
65 Exceptional
66 Drunkards
67 Projecting rock
68 Making ZZs
69 Sicilian
70 Prominent
71 Football talk
72 Eyewash
73 — arts
74 "Fur —" (song)
75 Discover
76 Tse-tung
77 Cct. birthplace
78 Verse rhythm
79 Ms. Lauder
80 Unit of work

Diagramless 19 X 19, By Martha J. De Wit

ACROSS
1 Pitfall
5 Residence
6 Actors in a play
10 Singer Mac
11 Fragrance
12 Open
14 Give a new title to
15 Ballot
17 Slaves
19 — Scotia
21 Wheel

22 Intel
23 Slip producer
26 Conceal
27 Aquarium fish
29 Dingle
30 Air
32 Savas
34 Pay by mail
35 Wishes
37 Freeway
38 Ramps
39 Basks
40 Enthusiasm

41 Finish
42 Starting doctors
43 Chicago's airport
45 Ship wood
46 Ship
47 "What a good boy —" (card)
48 Interior
49 Caravan
50 Baseball stat

51 Egg dishes
52 A Copperfield
53 permitting
54 Swag
55 "and out"
56 Envelop
57 Highlander
58 Kin of "for example"
59 Equal
60 "The King"

DOWN
1 Scot. chief
2 Wander
3 Army
4 Bothered
5 Trolley toll
7 God of war
8 Child
9 Govt. worker
10 Be very fond
12 God of love
13 Kudos
15 Sidesteps

16 Style
18 Ceremony
20 Joy or Edie
21 Be in charge
24 "I cannot tell"
25 Steeps flax
27 Lure
28 Incredible
31 Altar access
32 Fr. landlord's income

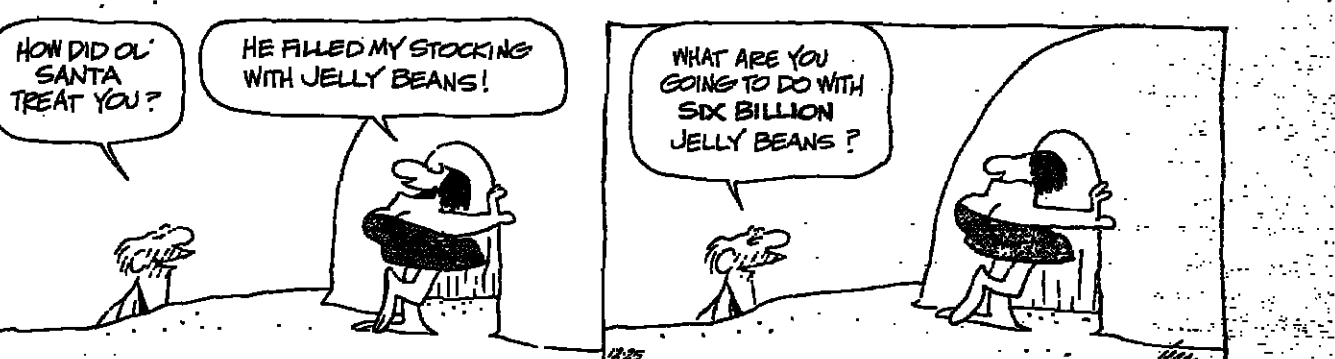
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B.C.



Food irradiation -- experts discount fears

By Clare Pedrick

GENEVA — Hiroshima, Chernobyl... the words conjure up a deadly cloud of radioactivity killing hundreds of thousands and making the land forbidden desert for decades or more.

The fear of nuclear energy is rooted deep in people's heart, yet scientists and public health experts alike say that radiation technology can be safely and effectively used to protect the world's food supply. Next to the frozen food section, they argue, supermarkets should have an irradiated food section. Consumers would be able to buy potatoes that don't sprout, strawberries that aren't moldy and, perhaps most important, poultry and eggs with greatly reduced amounts of the toxic salmonella bacteria.

Food that is irradiated is exposed to carefully measured amounts of ionizing radiation, through X-rays, electron bombardment or gamma rays — the same rays that are used in radiotherapy to treat cancer patients.

"People think that the food itself becomes radioactive, but this is a gross misconception," said Dr. Morton Satin, chief of the Agricultural Industries Service at the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) in Rome. "The radioactivity passes through, but the only thing that absorbs it is the enzyme that gets destroyed. In the case of a potato, it's the enzyme that causes it to sprout prematurely. It's the same for meats that contain

salmonella."

Food irradiation is not a new idea. Research began back in the 1940s and more than a thousand scientific studies have been completed. After studying the results of some of those studies, experts at the FAO and the World Health Organisation (WHO) say that the technique is not only safe but that it should be positively encouraged as a way of treating certain foods to wipe out two serious threats like food spoilage and food-borne, potentially fatal, illness.

In spite of such endorsements, the issue remains a controversial one. So far, no country has begun irradiating food on anything like a wide commercial scale. In the developing world, governments have given the go-ahead in Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay. The Soviet Union and several Eastern European states are also using the process to treat some foodstuffs. But among the Western industrialised nations there has been a widespread reluctance to introduce the technology.

France is the most advanced, using irradiation to decontaminate chicken used in the food-processing industry. The United States has authorised irradiation for poultry, fruits, vegetables, pork, wheat and herbs and spices, but advocates of irradiated foods have met strong consumer resistance. Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Switzerland, West Germany and Sweden have banned irradiation of domestically pro-

duced foodstuffs and will not import irradiated products.

Deep-seated fears

At the WHO headquarters in Geneva, Dr. Fritz Kaferstein, manager of the Food Safety Unit, blames the resistance on the emotionalism of an inadequately informed public. "People have very deep-seated fears when it comes to nuclear power, and research shows it all goes back to Hiroshima," he said. "Chernobyl reconfirmed many people's opinions that you cannot trust this type of technology. In fact, food irradiation has nothing, but nothing, to do with Chernobyl, but this distinction is not made."

"We are satisfied it is safe," he continued. "We have done our homework and we are concerned that this technology is being rejected out of hand, regardless of the enormous benefits it could bring to mankind."

On the most dramatic applications of food irradiation, proponents argue, is in preventing food-borne diseases that kill thousands of people each year in developing and developed countries alike, as well as costing millions of dollars in medical bills and loss of worktime. In a recent joint report the FAO and the WHO stated that illness caused by contaminated food is perhaps the most widespread health problem in modern-day society.

Those in favour of irradiation claim that it kills contaminants in foodstuffs, thus making products safer for public

consumption. "In almost all industrialised countries poultry meat is up to 100 per cent contaminated with salmonella," said Kaferstein. "Of course, we do not eat raw chicken, but we have to handle it, season it, use a knife to cut it. Consumers are not microbiologists and do not realise how easy it is to cross-contaminate other foods that will not be cooked. If one bacterial cell reaches a piece of food, then in half a day it will multiply into 10 million cells. That's when you get food poisoning, and in the case of the old, the very young and people who are already ill, it can kill."

Eggs are another major risk area. A salmonella strain has found its way into the egg-laying flocks of many industrialised nations during the past few years. In the United Kingdom almost 100 per cent of the eggs are contaminated. Kaferstein says that irradiating the eggs would eliminate the bacteria.

In developing countries irradiation could help reduce food shortages by reducing the amount of spoilage. According to the FAO, between one quarter and one third of the world's entire food production is lost to pests, fungus and bacteria. In tropical countries, where high temperatures and high humidity create special problems in storing food, the figure may be 50 per cent or higher. China alone loses 80 million tons of grain each year in post-harvest spoilage.

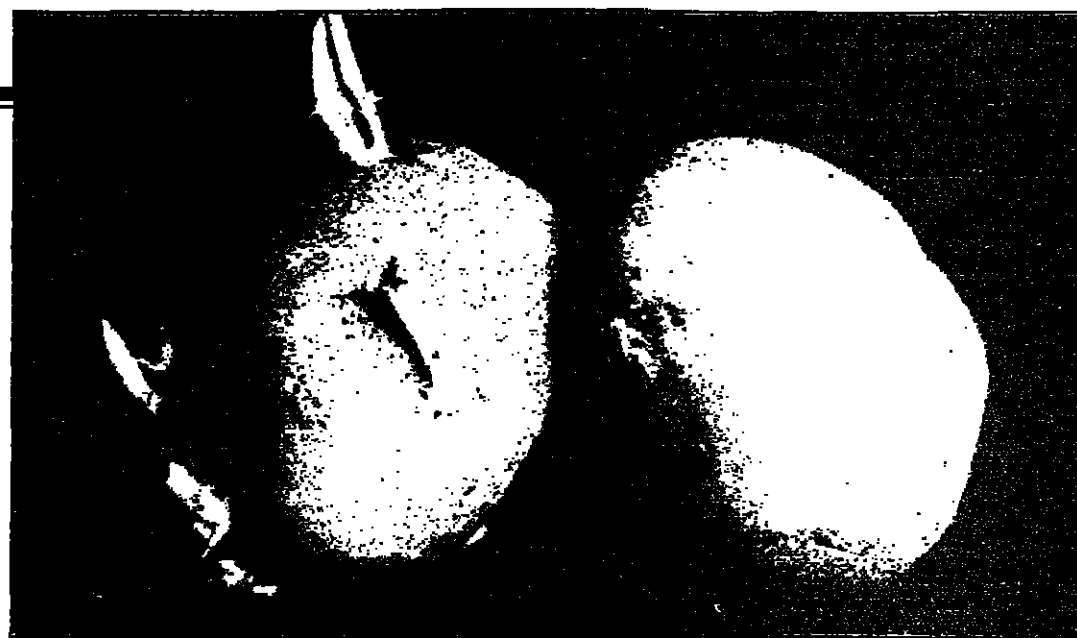
"Just think of the impact food irradiation could have on

helping a country like China, which has one billion mouths to feed," said Kaferstein. "It's a technology that could also help developing countries expand their export markets and increase their earning possibilities," he added. "Food irradiation prolongs shelf-life, so it would enable countries producing tropical fruits and vegetables to reduce their losses and perhaps choose a cheaper method of transport. Pineapples, mangoes and papaya from West Africa and South America could be transported by boat instead of being flown in. It would also mean that customers in the receiving countries would have these products at a lower price."

Irradiation benefits tropical countries

Food experts also point out that irradiation would benefit tropical countries whose food exports are currently banned by some industrialised nations because of suspected contamination. "Prawns produced in tropical climates are quite frequently contaminated with bacteria such as salmonella," said Kaferstein. "If (the prawns) were irradiated, countries like Bangladesh and Thailand could export far more. Of course, the rich importing countries have got to accept food irradiation before they can expect the developing countries to commit themselves to the investment."

Food irradiation is certainly an expensive business, at least in the initial stages. But stu-



Touted by scientists as the best way to prevent food spoilage and the illnesses caused by contaminated foods, the irradiation of foodstuffs would guarantee potatoes that would not sprout.

dies by officials from FAO, WHO and the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) say the high costs would be more than offset by the savings from reduced losses and spoilage of foodstuffs.

All three organisations stress the need for adequate training of personnel and strict controls on the use of irradiation equipment. "There are plenty of developing countries, such as India, China, Malaysia, Thailand and Brazil, which are very well organised and would be perfectly capable of dealing with technologies like this," said Kaferstein. "There are others, especially those caught up in the middle of civil wars, where I would hesitate to suggest any kind of sophisticated technology."

Opponents of irradiation, led by a British consumer group, the London Food

Commission, complain that the process could be used to mask the quality of food that is already past its prime and that consumers would have no guarantee that the product they are buying has been treated. Customers would have to rely on trust and labeling, a point that supporters of irradiation concede.

The London group also claims that irradiation causes vitamin losses. True, says Kaferstein, but so does every other form of food preservation and storage — and potatoes that have begun to sprout have virtually no vitamins left at all.

When it comes down to it, say many proponents, the food irradiation issue is really one of free choice.

"My daughter got salmonella when she was two years old and very nearly died of it," said Satin. "I'd much

rather have the freedom to go into a supermarket and choose between two clearly marked types of chicken that which probably has got salmonella and that which definitely hasn't."

"People smoke and drive cars, even when there is clear proof that they are endangering their lives, taking risks that are hardly acceptable," added Kaferstein. "Yet on this issue they are calling for a zero risk, which is something that simply does not exist in this life. What we can say is that the risk is very, very minimal, almost certainly far less than the risk we run by poisoning ourselves with hidden toxins that exist in many foods that we consider natural. I think, as informed adults, we should be allowed to take that decision for ourselves." World News Link.

New experimental drug may slow progress of AIDS

By Joseph Neff

The Associated Press

NEWARK, New Jersey — AIDS experts hope that a new experimental drug will slow the progress of the deadly disease and prove less toxic and cheaper than the antiviral drugs AZT and DDI.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has made Hoffman-La Roche's drug DDC available to AIDS patients in a "compassionate use programme" designed to

test the safety of the drug, the pharmaceutical company and the FDA has announced.

"The most exciting thing about DDC is that it is looking more and more to be the drug that DDI was supposed to be," said Dr. Jay Lalezari, co-director to the HIV Clinical Research Centre at Mount Zion Hospital in San Francisco.

"We don't know the efficacy, but it looks like it is well-tolerated," he said.

New York-based Bristol

Myers has been distributing the experimental drug DDI free in a similar compassionate use programme to about 8,000 patients who are not responding to AZT treatment or cannot tolerate AZT.

The side effects of DDI include nausea, diarrhea and depression, but DDC, which stands for dideoxycytidine, has shown few side effects, Lalezari said.

AZT is the only AIDS drug approved by the FDA. DDC, because it is still classified as

experimental, is available only in clinical trials. The compassionate use programme announced Thursday expands those trials.

Though it does not cure AIDS, AZT prolongs the lives of some people infected by the virus. Others have stopped taking the drug because of side effects such as anemia and depletion of bone marrow.

There are two ongoing clinical trials in which researchers are comparing the effec-

tiveness of DDC and AZT. Patients do not know which of the two drugs they are receiving.

Hoffman-La Roche will begin a study on June 25 with 50 patients who cannot tolerate DDI or AZT. The study will assess the toxicity and effectiveness of DDC.

If little toxicity is found, the programme will be expanded to 200 patients after four weeks and opened to unlimited enrollment after four months.

This approach is a com-

promise in a bitter controversy between some people with AIDS and researchers who fear participants in clinical trials will drop out if the drugs are available elsewhere.

Jim Eligo, a member of the AIDS Research Advisory Council, said the combination of DDC and AZT seems to be more effective than either drug alone.

"In addition, the combination is less harmful because their toxicities do not overlap," Eligo said.

Vaccine found to protect against AIDS in 2 chimpanzees

By Marjorie Shaffer
Reuter

School, told Reuters.

NEW YORK — Scientists said Friday they were able in preliminary studies to protect against AIDS in animals infected with the virus causing the fatal disease in humans, demonstrating for the first time that a vaccine can protect against AIDS.

The new research was led by Dr. Phillip Berman of the Biotechnology Firm Genentech Inc and Dr. Jorg Eichberg of the Southwest Biomedical Research Centre of San Antonio, Texas.

Fellow AIDS researchers acknowledged Genentech's achievement represented another step towards achievement of a vaccine against acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) but said it was short of a breakthrough.

"At this point it's not a surprise," AIDS vaccine researcher Dr. Ronald Desrosiers of the Harvard Medical

school said. "SIV is an AIDS-related virus which strikes only monkeys. HIV, human immunodeficiency virus, is the scientific name for the AIDS virus affecting humans."

"What is new is that they have achieved protection using only a small segment of the viral coating," Desrosiers and other researchers said.

Such a finding, researchers said, suggests that a safer vaccine may be developed using only a portion of the virus rather than a whole, inactivated virus.

"We don't want to get hopes too high, because it is still very, very early," said Jack Murphy, a spokesman for Genentech.

Millions of teens expected to die of smoking-related illness

By Diane Duston
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Five million of today's children will die of smoking-related illnesses in their later years if the current rate of tobacco use by young people continues, the U.S. surgeon-general has said.

Dr. Antonia Novello, in her first major address on smoking, said more than 3,000 teenagers become regular smokers each day.

She accused cigarette com-

panies of spending \$3.3 billion annually to advertise and promote their products in ways that appeal to children and adolescents.

A spokeswoman for the Tobacco Institute, interviewed later, said cigarette companies do not want children as their customers.

"For decades we have taken aggressive actions to keep cigarettes out of the hands of kids," Brennan Dawson said. She said advertising is not aimed at creating

new smokers, but selling tobacco products to people who already smoke.

Novello's remarks came at a conference to stop smoking among minors held by the interagency committee on Smoking and Health National Advisory Committee.

The programme coincided with World No-Tobacco Day. Novello said 44 states restrict the sale of tobacco products to minors.

"In six weeks, it will be 45," Dawson, the tobacco spokes-

woman, said, noting that Kentucky recently passed such legislation. "We're not opposed to that."

But the surgeon general was critical of the enforcement of those laws, saying only five states have been able to provide statistical information of violations.

She quoted an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association as saying an estimated 1 billion packs of cigarettes are sold annually to children under 18 years of

age. "Because only a very small percentage of smokers begin smoking as adults, efforts at prevention must focus on children, Novello said.

The national Centers for Disease Control (CDC) also reported that an estimated 1 billion packs of cigarettes are sold to children each year.

Only three states reported citations against 32 vendors last year and inspectors found only minimal enforcement of laws in the 44 states restricting

children's access to tobacco, the CDC said.

Dawson said, however, that a recent government report released by the Department of Health and Human Services said about 50 per cent of all smokers started the habit between the adult ages of 18 and 21.

"What causes teens to smoke is peer pressure and the influence of elders in a child's life," said Dawson. "Those are the issues that need to be addressed."

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Despite all efforts, number of seats severely dwindling in French cinemas

By Jean-Marc Dupuich

PARIS — That play by Ionesco, in which the number of chairs on stage increases, is well known. In the French cinema, it is quite another story. The number of seats is dwindling. Cinemas are closing down. And this has been going on for nearly ten years. As, in 1989, the number of cinema-goers only fell by 3 per cent, consolation is sought in the idea that perhaps the rock-bottom has been reached.

It must be said that Minister of Culture, Jack Lang, has done all he could to stop the fall, with grants to local authorities which take over a cinema that is closing-down and financial help to hard-up cinema managers. The problem is that the cinema is expensive. It is a luxury that the public are reluctant to indulge in. How else could one explain the success in Paris of the special week in which the 6 p.m. showing cost 18 francs instead of the usual 35 to 40 francs?

Above all, making a film is expensive. In 1989, 2.8 billion francs were invested in producing 137 films. The commission for paying an advance on receipts distributed the 100 million francs it had to the 50 projects chosen from among 575 applications. This number proves that creation remains alive. But exports remain modest and, above all, French films are losing ground in their own country to the benefit of American productions.

The results of operating cinemas in 1989 are alarming. The proportion of French films on the national market fell below 35 per cent, where as American films accounted for more than 55 per cent. Only *Trop Belle Pour Toi* was a box-office success where it stands together with *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*.

Trop Belle Pour Toi says that it is difficult to love and that beauty does not always

go together with love. One can be married to the most beautiful woman in the world and discover that the woman of your life is another one, not so pretty, but clearly made for you.

It was a success in winning César awards. During the ceremony presided over by Kirk Douglas, it received five trophies as the Best Film, the Best Director, the Best Scenario for Bertrand Blier, the Best Actress for the too beautiful Carole Bouquet, and the best editing for Claudine Merlin.

Philippe Noiret, who had already received a Félix at the European Film Festival, for his performance in Bertrand Tavernier's *La Vie et Rien d'Autre*, was awarded the César for the best actor for the same rôle. And Cinema Paradiso, a Franco-Italian production in which he played the projectionist in the cinema in a Sicilian village in the 50s, was awarded the Oscar for a foreign film. Hollywood thus sheds a tear over the golden age of European cinema.

Eric Rochant's *Un Monde Sans Pitié*, already noticed at the Sarasota Festival in Florida, was quite rightly awarded a César as the Best First Film. This is a new work which opens up 1990 with a way of filming feelings.

In the immediate future 1990 seems promising. Claude Zidi's *Ripoux Contre Ripoux*, with Philippe Noiret, is expected to link up with the success of *Les Ripoux*. After his poignant memories in *Au Revoir les Enfants*, Louis Malle creates a touching work with *Milou en Mai* with magnificent acting by Michel Piccoli and Miou-Miou. It is May 68 in the country, a thousand leagues away from the events in Paris which are heard on the radio.

Luc Besson, the director of *Le Grand Bleu*, offers Nikita Nikita, played by the dazzling Anne Parillaud, is a delinquent whose qualities as a killer are put to good use by the Secret



Vanessa Paradis received a César in the Young and Promising Actress category.

Services, but she falls in love with a young supermarket cashier. Love and death. With Tante Danielle, Etienne Chazille indulges in his fondness for horrible people, which began in *La Vie Est un Long Fleuve Tranquille*. Auntie Danielle is an unbearable old lady.

Cyrano is expected to bring people flooding back to the cinema. Ever since Edmond Rostand created the character for the theatre in 1897, the hero has always thrilled the crowds. This time, it is Gérard Depardieu who fights with a sword, talks in verse and cries out of love for Roxane, with his usual talent, enthusiasm and force of conviction. This film, by Jean-Paul Rappeneau deserves to be shown all over the world.

The French cinema has not died. It has some inventive directors in touch with our period, and original actors who know how to move the audience. Unfortunately, it is submitted to the law of money. And, if the United States, which imposes this law, only very occasionally opens its door ajar, Eastern Europe, which has not a bean, opens its doors wide. That is why Mr. Jack Lang has created a special fund for coproduction with those countries. The General Cinema Union runs a large auditorium in Moscow and Jeanne Moreau has just made a film with Mosfilm, because she took a liking to the scenario of a young unknown director, so that cinema may remain an art — *L'Actualité en France*.

Amsterdam exhibition shows link between Picasso and Rembrandt

By Gallia Vromen
Reuter

AMSTERDAM — At first glance, two artists could hardly seem further apart than Picasso and Rembrandt.

But an exhibition in Amsterdam shows how the 20th-century Spanish cubist was inspired by the 17th-century Dutch master and reinterpreted his works in dozens of sketches and paintings.

The exhibition, "Picasso-Rembrandt-Picasso", runs until June 10 at the Rembrandt House, a small museum in the Dutch artist's home which houses a permanent collection of his etchings.

It shows Pablo Picasso's fascination with Rembrandt's famous *Night Watch* and his Biblical depictions of such scenes as Joseph fleeing from Potiphar's wife and Bathsheba bathing.

"While artists have always borrowed imagery from the

history of art, Picasso's appropriation of the work of others is unprecedented in both method and scope," writes American art historian Janie Cohen whose research inspired the show.

Picasso sketched more variations of Rembrandt's work than of any other artist and began an intense study of the master while recovering from major surgery in 1965 at the age of 84, she writes in the exhibition catalogue.

From then until his death in 1973, moustached, sword-wielding musketeers in 17th-century dress inspired by Rembrandt dominated Picasso's work, sometimes taking on the features of his favourite commedia Dell'Arte figures Harlequin and Pierrot.

In all there are about 60 known paintings and drawings by Picasso based on Rembrandt's work.

The exhibition displays about half of these works by

Picasso alongside originals or reproductions of Rembrandt, giving visitors a rare view of how one artistic genius viewed another across the expanse of 300 years.

Picasso was never too intimidated by Rembrandt to refrain from being playful.

In his version of the two central musketeers from *Night Watch*, one is conspicuously wearing a roller skate and his face bears traces of Picasso's cubist style.

Picasso turns a happy Rembrandt self-portrait with his wife Saskia into an erotic sketch, preserving Rembrandt's distinctive hat and moustache but debrobing Saskia.

Picasso also made a series of 15 sketches based on Rembrandt's 1654 masterpiece *Bathsheba with King David* which he probably saw frequently at the Louvre in Paris.

In his version, *Bathsheba* takes on the features of Picas-

so's wife Jacqueline and becomes more abstract in each sketch, with the multi-faceted back and front views that were Picasso's hallmark.

But *Bathsheba's* expression of pensive anticipation in Rembrandt's work is carried into Picasso's otherwise startlingly different version.

Rembrandt's 1659 *Jupiter and Antiope* inspired a series of sketches of a sleeping woman three centuries later by Picasso in which he blatantly experiments with Rembrandt's use of light.

"Picasso never actually said what was about Rembrandt that inspired him. What's incredible is how eager someone like Picasso was to deal with an old master like Rembrandt," said assistant curator Marijke Holtrop who helped assemble the show.

"It shows the link between the old art and the new," she added.

Dick Tracy goes from funnies to film

By Bob Thomas
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Dick Tracy" the movie opens in nearly 2,000 theaters on June 15 amid a media Megabiz that rivals last summer's *Batman*.

But will Warren Beatty's film about the square-jawed flatfoot with the yellow fedora match the \$252-million domestic gross amassed by the caped crusader?

Fingers crossed, Walt Disney Co. is tossing a huge premiere at Disney World in Florida with 3,000 journalists expected to attend. Following trailers that have appeared in 2,000 theaters since Christmas, TV commercials will be unleashed on the nation's networks. Merchandise, including Tracy's wrist-watch radio, will flood the market.

But skeptics point to some negatives. The comic strip *Dick Tracy*, once featured in 500 newspapers, now appears in 150 and is little known by today's young, moviegoing audience. What's worse, the young crowd hardly knows Beatty, 53, who has made only two films in nine years, the last being the quintessential bomb *Ishtar*.

His other was the critically acclaimed *Reds* in 1981. He co-starred with Diane Keaton and received an Academy Award for Best Director. Another problem is that although *Dick Tracy* co-star Madonna may be a megastar in pop music, her last few movies were megadisasters: *Shanghai Surprise* and *Who's That Girl*.

Nevertheless, Barrie Osborne, executive producer of *Dick Tracy*, takes an upbeat view. "The picture should attract



Warren Beatty

a wide audience because it can be appreciated on different levels," he said in an interview. "The younger audience can enjoy the prosthetic characters (pruneface, flat-top, etc.), lots of action and beautiful colour. And they certainly know Madonna." "The older audience can appreciate the wit and the appearance of the film — Much of it was derived from post-expressionist paintings — a 'three penny opera' — Bertolt Brecht look. ... And Warren can bring that audience as well."

Disney plans to issue graphic novelizations — spruced-up comic books — of *Dick Tracy* to bring some sort of awareness to the movie and character.

Dick Tracy was the creation of Chester Gould, who drew cartoons for Chicago papers. Originally entitled *Plainclothes Tracy*, the strip about a hawk-nosed, straight-arrow detective debuted in October 1931 in the *Detroit Mirror* and *New York Daily News*.

The comic strip featured

blood, bullets and a menacing menagerie of villains with memorable names. Flatop, Flyface, Measles, Mumbles and more have threatened the intrepid two-fisted Tracy for nearly 60 years.

Tracy, his sweetheart Tess Trueheart and his grotesque enemies became American icons in the 1930s and '40s. Low-budget movies and serials and a short-run TV series helped fuel the country's fascination with Gould's denizens of the underworld.

Dick Tracy, according to Beatty, had its beginnings in 1977 when producers Art Linson and Floyd Mutrux bought film rights. They made a deal with Paramount pictures, which enlisted universal pictures to co-produce. Various packages were proposed, in-

cluding projects with directors Steven Spielberg, John Landis, Richard Benjamin and Walter Hill, and stars Harrison Ford, Clint Eastwood, Richard Gere, Tom Selleck and Mel Gibson.

Beatty became involved in 1983, but Paramount reportedly balked at his pay demands. Five years later, Michael Eisner and Jeff Katzenberg had moved from Paramount to Disney, and they revived *Tracy* with Beatty, adding certain fiscal restraints.

No one at Disney is saying how much *Dick Tracy* cost. Reports range from \$23 million to \$30 million, considerably less than other summer blockbusters such as *Total Recall*, *Die Hard 2* and *Days of Thunder*.

"It was a modestly budgeted film," insists executive producer Osborne, a veteran of such bloated budgets as *Apocalypse Now* and the *Cotton Club*, both made Francis Coppola. Osborne, 46, had not worked previously with Beatty, but he soon learned how the producer-director-star operated.

"Warren acts as a conductor," said Osborne. "He is very collaborative, likes to get people together and listen to their ideas. Then he selects what he wants."

"The look of the film was his idea. He wanted to achieve the same quality of the Sunday comic strip. When

Al Pacino

Paul Sorvino, Lips Manlis, Estelle Parsons, Mrs. Trueheart.

Beatty considered several actresses for the role of the seductive moll, Breathless Mahoney, before deciding on his close friend Madonna, who argued that the role was similar to her own on-stage persona.

Madonna's biggest challenge, she says in publicity material, was singing the five Stephen Sondheim songs: "It was a great learning experience for me because when I first heard the music I panicked. 'I can't sing these songs, they're too difficult,' I said. 'But Stephen was very helpful and generous and gave me a lot of encouragement. They are great songs. I wish I could write songs like that.'"

Beatty's challenge, says Osborne, was directing the actor Warren Beatty. "Warren was able to watch a video playback after each scene, but mostly he relied on the reaction of people around the camera. Like Richard (Sylvester) and Vittorio (Storaro)." *Dick Tracy* was tested before audiences away from major film centres in large cities, and the reaction was "great," said Osborne. Only a few cuts were made to tighten the film to its 100-minute running time.

All that remains to be seen is whether or not *Dick Tracy* will go from funnies to big-screen scream.



David Lynch's *Wild at Heart*, a tale of violence and lustful romance in the American south, drew gasps from the audience at the Cannes

film festival. In the picture Lynch poses with Italian actress Isabella Rossellini after the screening of the film.

By Ronald Clarke
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Film Director David Lynch, winner of the Golden Palm Award at the Cannes Festival for *Wild at Heart*, is Hollywood's favourite eccentric — a cult leader whose dark, moody, often sexually violent films fascinate and upset audiences.

He is a dedicated, driven artist whose work is his life. He is also a baby-faced, charming conversationalist whose mop of hair and voice with a twinge of a country accent earned the nickname "Jimmy Stewart from Mars" from producer Mel Brooks.

Lynch's film *Wild at Heart* has violence and sex scenes that will almost certainly earn it an X-rating for adult audiences only in the United States unless cuts are made.

The film stars Nicolas Cage and real-life mother and

daughter Diane Ladd and Laura Dern in a story of lovers trying to escape the police in a doomed small-town America. Also in the film is Isabella Rossellini, Lynch's girlfriend and mother of his child, portraying a killer.

The award of the most coveted prize at Cannes came as the U.S. ABC television announced it would retain his off-beat series *Twin Peaks*, a dark gothic murder mystery set in a small town in the American northwest, for its autumn season.

The series, which marked Lynch's entry into television, has a dancing dwarf, a sadistic truck driver, a doctor who has cotton swabs in his ears and a woman who carries a pet dog. It is the story of how the murder of a high school beauty queen unearths a town's secrets.

As a young man, Lynch, now 43, produced a short film called *Grandmother* about a

disturbed boy who plants a seed that grows in his grandmother. His first feature film, *Eraserhead*, told the story of a couple and their mutant baby in a grim industrial town.

The film, released in 1977, took five years to complete because Lynch, who developed a habit of meditating each day while making the film, kept running out of money.

Then in 1980 came *The Elephant Man*, the true-life story of the relationship between the tragically deformed John Merrick and his doctor in a grimy 19th century London. It was a box office success and earned Lynch Academy Award nominations for Best Director and Best Adapted Screenplay.

Lynch laboured over *Dune*, a \$40 million failure, before he made his best-known film, *Blue Velvet*, released in 1986. The film told a story of corrup-

tion in a small town and a young man's desire to know more about sex and death. Dennis Hopper portrayed a maniac who wore an oxygen mask while having sex and quoted Roy Orbison to people he was terrorising.

Lynch, born in Missoula, Montana, is believed to have developed his liking for and loathing of small towns when he was growing up in the rural northwest, where his father was a research scientist for the Department of Agriculture.

Lynch wanted to be an artist, not a film director, and he still sells his abstract paintings. He has also written love songs and wrote and directed *Industrial Symphony No. 1* with Composer Angelo Badalamenti.

It features a woman acrobat and a midget who saws wood on stage. Lynch has been married and divorced twice and has two children.



Madonna

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Towards a better environmental policy: The solid waste crisis

By Iyad Jumma' Hammad

AT THE EASTERN borders of Amman, the Greater Amman Municipal Council recently decided to locate its disposal site after the old one was totally filled. The site chosen was a huge pit which used to be an old phosphate mine. Not too long after the site was opened to receive the wastes of Amman and several other neighboring cities and towns, a strong public opposition to the site was activated by the bad odor believed to be emanating from it.

The conflict between the municipality and the local residents reached a peak last month. However, the municipality has promised to consider moving the landfill to another location if it was proven that it is the source of odor.

Amman is not alone in facing such a problem. Virtually every major city in the world is facing the same question. We in Jordan, as well as the rest of the world, were busy for decades enjoying the benefits of modern industry which, since the turn of this century, never stopped increasing in volume, diversity or complexity.

The easiest and cheapest method of disposal of our waste was, and still is in most cases, the land burial.

The inevitable moment of truth had to come. Toxic leakage started to ooze out and pollute soil, streams and ground water. Badly needed water was rendered inadequate for human consumption by the deadly leakage.

Better than giving suggestions to help the municipality of Amman solve its solid waste problem, we should rather look at an example of a country whose environment had suffered a great deal from its industrial development, but which found in its people and government enough determination to clean and restore every bit of the environment that was contaminated.

Our example is the United States of America where the annual solid waste production is estimated to be 4.4 billion tonnes, of which 230 million tonnes are residential, 140 million tonnes industrial and 640 million tonnes agricultural. The rest comes from the mining and animal industry. This

total, however, is expected to reach 12 billion by the year 2000.

On a per capita basis, the U.S. outruns most of the industrial nations. The annual solid waste production in the U.S. is 3600 lb/capita/year while in Japan it is 800 lbs and in West Germany it is 500 lbs.

To tackle this problem two goals were set. The first was to minimize toxicity and possibly eliminate it, and the second to sharply reduce volume.

To achieve the first goal, several acts and regulations were enacted by the U.S. Congress. One of the more distinguished acts enacted was "The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act" (RCRA). RCRA contained three main elements which are:

— Description of the types of hazardous wastes that are allowed to be disposed of in-land.

— Setting of safety standards to prevent spilling or leaking and containment procedures in case of accidental spillage.

— Provision for a tracking mechanism for disposed hazardous waste by requiring each industry to keep manifests for

its wastes that keep track of it from minute it leaves the plant until it is permanently stored in the disposal site.

The other major hazardous waste regulation was "The Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liability Act" (CERCLA) which is commonly referred to as the Superfund. CERCLA was enacted to provide funds to clean hazardous waste sites in which pollution had already occurred or it is very likely that it will.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has prepared a list of such sites called the National Priority List that contained over 2,000 sites. CERCLA, however, gives EPA the right to recover its costs from every party that contributed to the contamination of the site including past and present owners, the generators of the waste and the transporters.

The second goal in the U.S. solid waste policy was to minimize volume. Attention is currently focused on recycling. It is surprising to know that over 40 per cent of the volume of solid waste in the U.S. is paper products and 10 per cent glass and 4 per cent plastics. Paper,

glass and plastic are very good candidates for recycling due to their high market value. Recycling is currently done on a voluntary basis. However, some states, such as Connecticut, are planning to make it mandatory within the near future.

Another method of volume reduction that is also being practised besides recycling, is waste-to-energy plants. The waste is basically incinerated and the generated heat is used to boil water and generate steam which is used to produce electric power.

One last point about the U.S. environmental policy is that every citizen is given the right to sue anybody who causes contamination of the environment and any governmental agency that fails to implement any environmental ordinance. This provision in the U.S. environmental law indicates the sincerity of the American people and their government about preservation and rehabilitation of the U.S. environment and they are indeed an example to learn from.

We only meant by bringing up this example to show that



The writer is an environmental engineer who works for the Greater Amman Municipality. He obtained his Masters Degree from New Haven University in Connecticut and his B.A. from Syracuse University, N.Y.

relocating the new landfill to avoid public opposition is not a solution.

We will fill the new site just as we did with the previous one and sooner or later we will run out of land, that of course being relatively close. All of us know how scarce water is and that most of it, if not all, is ground water, and whether we like it or not, the poisonous juice of the piled refuse will surely find its way to this very precious commodity.

Egypt pledges to help Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

DCM, has been escorting ambassador McCarthy in Cairo," Ms. Wahba said. "Ambassador McCarthy did have a meeting with President Hrawi, but Ryan Crocker did not meet Hrawi with him." She did not say what Hrawi and McCarthy talked about.

The United States has had no ambassador in Lebanon since last September because of continuing warfare in Beirut. McCarthy lives in Washington.

"Egypt can play a role in Lebanon because of the two countries' close historical relations..." Baz, Mubarak's chief political advisor, told reporters after the presidential meeting. "Egypt can use its international position in the interest of the Lebanese issue."

He said Egypt supports Lebanese legitimacy and consolidation of Hrawi's governmental authority over the country, based on an agreement reached among Lebanese leaders in Taif, Saudi Arabia.

In remarks distributed by the Middle East News Agency, Baz

said Hrawi and Mubarak discussed Egyptian military help for the Lebanese army. He refused to give details, but said the Lebanese side "will be satisfied with results of the current discussion."

Hrawi told reporters accompanying him on his plane Tuesday that he would request Egyptian weapons to "help revive" the Lebanese army. He also said he would seek Egypt's help in restoring sovereignty over South Lebanon.

Egypt will contact the United States, Israel and other countries about that issue, Baz said. "Unfortunately, there is no Arab nor non-Arab state which can force Israel to take a certain path," Baz said.

But "Egypt will hold back no effort... especially with the United States, which carries a big responsibility for what is going on in the region," Baz said.

Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss accompanied Hrawi on his official visit, the first stop on a trip that will take them also to Libya and Tunisia.

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Jordan welcomes warning

(Continued from page 1)

occupied territories but also the surrounding countries — Jordan, Syria and Lebanon — in the immediate term and other Arab countries at a later stage, the official said.

"We do not see the emigration process... (where emigrants) are not allowed to choose (their destination) and are channelled and directed... as part of human rights," the official said. "The emigrants end up in the territories of the Palestinian people and uproot the Palestinians from their land."

"People are going to be evicted and land is going to be confiscated," he said. "These are the two elements (which underpin) the peace process (which is based on) land in exchange for peace and the right of the people to determine their future."

"This is the political element that is being injected to create more instability and a disaster rather than bringing about peace," he added.

Furthermore, in light of the changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union which have eliminated the much-touted Soviet threat to the Middle East, Israel, which used to "sell" itself as the protector of Western interests in the region, is now seeking "a new role for itself" and present it to the U.S., according to the official.

One of the tools used by Israel towards achieving its goal is the perceived threat in "the growing Islamic fundamentalism — political Islam," the official said.

"Israel wants to build on the traditional Judeo-Christian ties against the 'extremist, radical, alien Islam'... which emanated from Iran and Persian nationalism," he said.

Meanwhile, the official said, Israel is playing a major role in the campaign against Iraq, which, in his view, has contributed positively to security and stability in the Middle East after ending its war with Iran in 1988.

He cited as examples that Iraq has encouraged Palestinian moderation as reflected in Baghdad's support for the PLO's peace strategy, which was reaffirmed at last month's Arab summit. Iraq's positive response to Arab calls for abstention from supporting rival factions in Lebanon despite Iranian influence in the war-ravaged country, and the peace approaches that the

Iraqi leadership has initiated towards Iran.

The official said it was not Iraq's possession of chemical weapons that was frightening Israel. "For the first time they (Israel) have awakened to the fact that an Arab state could sustain itself through eight years of war. This is something disturbing for Israel."

At the same time, the official conceded that "extremism in the region is developing in a rapid way due to the added frustration over the peace process... deep frustration without seeing a basic glimmer of hope for peace... when the land is usurped and the process of 'uprooting people' from their land is continuing... through economic strangling and luring people out."

"We don't honestly think that the Israelis will be amenable to common sense without basic international influence and input," he said. "The most important in this international output will be position of the U.S. The Palestinians have acquired the rules of the game as defined by the U.S. and all Arabs have supported the positive position."

By the same token, the official said, any break-off of the U.S.-PLO dialogue would only result in further extremism in the region. The U.S. through its dialogue with the PLO, has kept the situation less violent so far, the official said. "What is the alternative" to the dialogue? he asked.

According to the official, Jordan believes that Arab oil should be used positively to influence and win friends rather than creating "crises" with countries which already support the Arab position in the Middle East conflict.

"Our experience since 1973 (when Arab states imposed an oil embargo on countries which backed Israel) has shown that we created an image that is not conducive to peace and security," said the official. "If you want to create a crisis now it will not get us any closer to peace," added the official.

The official was answering a question whether the resolutions adopted by the Baghdad summit meant that the Arab states would use oil as a weapon to pressure countries which support and help Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel.

Menem's fairy tale marriage turns into 'grotesque' war

By Ed McCullough
Associated press writer

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA — The marriage of President Carlos Menem and his wife Zulema had the trappings of a fairy tale.

Children of Syrian immigrants, they met during a visit to the old country, married after a whirlwind courtship and raised a son and daughter while Menem's political star took him from a jail cell to a governor's mansion to the presidency.

Now, as they are on the verge of a very public break-up, their actions are the stuff of soap operas.

Mrs. Menem denounces the father of her children as a "womanizer" and blasts his social policies as inhuman, his economic plan as doomed and his staff as corrupt.

After complaining earlier this year that telephones at the presidential residence were tapped, Mrs. Menem walked out. Last month, Menem did the same and has since slept in government offices and the apartments of friends.

Magazines and newspapers have revealed in juicy facts and rumours splashed on covers and front pages.

Menem is laying legal groundwork to boot Mrs. Menem from the residence if she won't leave on her own.

The whole affair is "grotesque," says Menem, 59. He usually refuses to comment on developments, but said "I don't know whether to get mad or laugh" when asked about her claim he has been "kidnapped" by his sides.

Mrs. Menem, 46, declined

through her press secretary to be interviewed on the subject.

Residents of this nominally Roman Catholic nation seem intrigued but hardly scandalized by the marital feud. Menem-watchers say it hasn't affected his policies, public image or relations with the church.

"Everyone knows their last reconciliation was a political act to help him win the election" in May 1989, said Norberto Fernandez, editor of the celebrity magazine "La Revista."

"It's not a political problem" for him, said Pollster Manuel Mora Y Arango. "That's what she would like it to be, but so far she hasn't been successful in making it one."

The Menems have had a stormy relationship for years. Both are ambitious, determined, quick-tongued and hot-tempered. An avid sportsman who races speedboats and rally cars, Menem has made no secret of his attraction to other women. Mrs. Menem, a striking blonde, had been linked with other men.

By some accounts, their marriage in Oct. 1966 was arranged by their Muslim parents. Menem was reported to have been in love with a young divorcee he continued to see for years after the wedding.

Following the March 1976 coup that toppled President Isabel Peron, Menem, a provincial governor and leading member of the populist peronist party, was jailed for three years, then put under house arrest.

The couple did not get together immediately after his release. When they did, they split up again in 1984. A second reconciliation, at the urging of Papal Nuncio Ubaldo Calabrese, came four years later on the eve of a



Carlos Menem

crucial primary election. Politics, not love, seems at the heart of their conflict.

"She wants a formal political position and he refuses to give her one," said a Peronist official, who commented on condition his name not be disclosed.

During the election campaign, the first lady-to-be tried to evoke comparisons with Evita, the wife of Juan Peron who helped him win election as president in 1946 and endeared herself to millions of poor Argentines with her charitable works. Menem did not help the effort flopped.

"I support Carlos Menem, but I want people to know I'm not here just as a symbol. I'm going to act. I'm going to do things. I'm going to work," she said during the campaign.

Mrs. Menem, a Muslim, has hinted her husband's conversion

to Catholicism — the state religion to which all presidents must adhere — was something less than an act of faith.

During the 11 months of Menem's presidency, Mrs. Menem has raised funds for schools and hospitals. But while her sister and cousin have been appointed to high posts, she has not.

Asked whether Mrs. Menem's connections with Labour Leader Saul Ubaldini, retired army rebel Colonel Mohammad Ali Seineldin and other influential critics of her husband eventually might force Menem to see things her way, the Peronist official said:

"Not at all. It's not just that Menem has stood up to tougher opponents as much as he never 'gives' anything to anybody. Sometimes, he seems to. With her, he's not even pretrading."

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE



Francois Mitterrand

Taxes rattle French markets

By Alan Raybould
Reuters

PARIS — French financiers and investors are jittery that capital gains taxes might be raised after a tough speech by President Francois Mitterrand about wealth from speculation which hit stock markets and the franc.

Senior ministers lined up to echo Mitterrand's worries about social inequalities in France, carrying the implicit threat of a crack down on what he called "purely speculative gains."

"Today, you can get rich while you're asleep," Mitterrand said last Tuesday, contrasting the easy money to be made from property and share speculation to the plight of the low-paid.

The stock market reacted quickly — in the three days after Mitterrand's speech, the CAC-40 index of leading shares fell almost two per cent.

The storm also weakened the franc, which has been vulnerable ever since a narrowly-defeated no-confidence motion undermined the government in early May, and the currency's weakness led to speculation about a rise in interest rates.

Mitterrand and Finance Minister Pierre Berégovoy appeared to single out property speculation as the main area of concern.

But an official at the French Employers' Organisation, the CNPF, said the business and financial communities were worried about a rise in the tax rate on all types of capital gains.

"The Socialist deputies (members of parliament) claim firms dabble too much in financial operations. What they seem to be complaining about is that companies are investing their liquid funds in things that give better and better returns," she said.

"These gains, most of the time, come from funds that are waiting to be put to some use. It's quite normal to invest them somewhere in the meantime," she added.

Gains made by companies — on property investments, or on securities or other financial transactions — are currently taxed at 19 per cent, raised from 16 per cent last year but still much lower than the 37 per cent on reinvested profits.

One possibility — which, Berégovoy called "not a bad idea" — is that these two rates could gradually be brought closer together and then fixed at the same level of 33 per cent.

The CNPF has been lobbying for the rate on reinvested profits to be lowered to 33 per cent in the 1991 budget. It is opposed to any increase in the rate paid on capital gains.

Berégovoy said he would not be making decisions in the heat of the moment, and finance ministry officials were surprised at the reaction to Mitterrand's words, when it had been known for months that a reform of the tax system was under study.

But the financial markets are worried that Mitterrand could be trying to revive his sagging popularity in opinion polls by pushing through measures to show the Socialists "caring face."

A rift has been evident for many months between Socialist deputies and the government over its management of the economy, and the emphasis put on austerity at the expense of social projects, like measures to cut the unemployment rates.

Pressure on the government could be increased in the next few days by Socialist deputies drafting a bill to place limits on the type of profits attacked by Mitterrand, party officials said.

The government is also due to announce soon a rise in the minimum wage. It is now widely expected that this will be increased by more than the 3.2 per cent inflation rate.

That could cause a further setback to financial markets — a big rise could force up wages across industry and threaten France's success in holding down costs, which has played a major part in the economic recovery since the mid-1980s.

Analysts predict dramatic price plunge if OPEC does not act fast

SINGAPORE (Agencies) — Middle East crude oil prices could crash to \$10 a barrel unless the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) acts fast to stop a spiral of price cuts as producers try to sell into a glutted market, oil experts said Wednesday.

"It's happened before and it can happen again," said a European oil company trader based here. "Only an emergency OPEC meeting can hold the market up now."

Concern is mounting that other large Middle East producers will cut their prices following Saudi Arabia's decision to lower their oil prices for customers worldwide.

News that Saudi Arabia had cut up to 70 cents off its July price formula sent oil prices spinning downwards Tuesday. The value of a barrel of the Mideast benchmark crude,

from Dubai, has dropped to \$13.20 from more than \$14 at the beginning of this week.

Key U.S. crude, west Texas intermediate (WTI), shed \$0.46 as news of Saudi price cuts followed hot on the heels of reports of continued high OPEC output.

American Petroleum Institute reports late Tuesday of a further rise in U.S. oil stocks, already at an eight-year high, slashed another \$0.40 off WTI price. July delivery WTI is now trading around \$16.28.

Britain's internationally traded Brent blend crude is currently quoted at around \$15.40 a barrel, a dollar below its value Monday.

Attention is now focusing on third quarter price talks between Kuwait and its Japanese term customers which are scheduled to start next week.

Kuwait produces a similar

crude to Saudi Arabia's Arabian medium grade which the kingdom has reduced by \$0.70 a barrel for July shipments to Far East buyers.

Iran is also due to discuss its third quarter term prices with Japanese customers this month.

Dubai prices fell to \$6.95 a barrel in 1986 when a fight for market share resulted in an OPEC price war. Brent prices dropped below \$10.

Oil analysts say the 13 OPEC ministers should meet before the scheduled date of July 25 to prevent a repetition of 1986.

"The OPEC meeting is too far away," said the European company trader. "They never do anything but the market always psychologically reacts."

At an emergency round of talks in early May, OPEC ministers agreed to limit out-

put to just over 22 million barrels per day (bpd) in an effort to reverse a 25 per cent drop in oil prices this year. April production totalled 23.65 million bpd, a Reuters survey shows.

However, industry surveys show since the May talks Iran and Iraq's output has actually risen significantly while Kuwait's output fell by a mere fraction of what it pledged to cut.

Of the big Mideast producers, only Saudi Arabia cut output by the agreed amount and a Reuters survey put total May OPEC output at 23.22 million bpd, with other estimates as high as 23.5 million bpd.

News on Tuesday of Saudi Arabia's price cuts was seen by several traders as a signal that Saudi Arabia might be getting ready to reverse its production cuts to regain market share.

However Saudi Arabia said Tuesday that it was still abiding by its OPEC production quota.

In a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency, Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said, "Saudi Arabia promised OPEC on May 1 to abide by its quota. The whole world admitted it was keeping its promise and it still adheres to it."

"On a purely technical basis they (Saudi Arabia) are just realigning their prices," said one trader. "But let's face it — cheaper barrels encourages more buying and means a bearish market."

Several OPEC ministers conferred by telephone Tuesday about the latest decline in prices, OPEC delegation sources said, but they said they knew of no current plans to convene any emergency ministerial talks of schedule.

UAE firms post profits but stocks index falls

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) unofficial stocks index dropped several points in May despite a series of record profits announcements, local brokers said.

"Supply has largely exceeded demand and as a result prices of shares of major banks and companies declined," said Adnan Al Sarraf, head of share dealing at the National Investment and Securities Corporation (NIS-CORP).

The National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD), which compiles an index of 22 of the biggest banks and firms in the country, said the index dropped to 1,369.78 points on May 28 from 1,377.15 on May 1. It stood at 1,421.98 at the beginning of 1990.

"The rise in supply was because some investors wanted to take advantage of recently higher share prices and others needed liquidity for some projects," Sarraf added.

NBAD Senior Manager Ziad

Dabbas said the first few months of the year, when major firms are announcing their annual results, were always the busiest on the telephone-traded market. He expected turnover and prices to stabilise later.

The UAE market, like other stock markets and exchanges in the Gulf, faces possible change.

Some brokers and officials are pushing for an official market and urging that foreigners be allowed to invest to improve turnover and liquidity. At present only UAE nationals can invest.

Over the month, shares in the UAE's biggest company, telecommunications firm ETISALAT, fell slightly to 580 dirhams (\$158.5) from 582 (\$158).

NBAD shares dropped to 255 (\$69.4) from 270 (\$73.5). National Bank of Dubai (NBD) stock fell to 561 (\$152.8) from 565 (\$153.9) while Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company (ADNIC) dipped to 535 (\$145.7)

from 560 dirhams (\$152.5).

All four firms had announced record profits for 1989. Some of the decline in their share price was attributed to ex-dividend trading.

The four firms together account for around 30 per cent of the market capitalisation of the 67 companies that have their shares traded, which totals 14 billion dirhams (\$3.8 billion).

The government owns around four billion dirhams (\$1.1 billion) of shares in the companies and has often said it does not intend to sell them.

Large state holdings in all Gulf states have been cited as stifling greater turnover and investor interest in the fledgling markets.

In the UAE many other investors also tend to be long-term holders, which keeps turnover low at an average 500,000 dirhams (\$136,000) a day. Kuwait's average turnover is around \$10 million a day.

Poland seeks Western help to transform banking system

LONDON (R) — Poland has invited 16 of the West's top banks to Warsaw to discuss how to transform the nation's creaking banking system and bury the legacy of Communist Party central control.

Sir William Rye, head of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) which is organising the meeting, said Poland wanted to tap Western expertise to revitalise a network of nine banks freed from the control of the Warsaw central bank.

"The Poles know these are not really proper commercial banks and that they are very much run by old party men," Rye told Reuters in an interview. "They want the system modernised."

The IFC, a Washington-based affiliate of the World Bank designed to promote private investment in developing nations, last year launched a drive to help the emerging new democracies of Eastern Europe, concentrating efforts on Poland and Hungary.

Rye said the June 30 talks in Warsaw, organised after a request from Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz, would be chaired by Paul Volcker, former chairman of the U.S. Federal

Reserve and now in the investment banking sector. Top bankers from North America and Europe would accompany him.

Creation of a Western-style banking system is a central pillar of the Solidarity-led government's shock therapy to switch the economy from Communist central planning to the Western ideal of a free market.

Before World War II, Poland had 17,000 banks but under four decades of Communism the few that survived the devastation of Nazi occupation were brought under state control.

The nine regional branches of the central bank have recently been hived off as the nucleus of a commercial system but Western bankers say they suffer from outdated technology and are still steeped in the era of central planning.

Balcerowicz has gathered a group of top advisers around him at the Finance Ministry, including academics from the West, and IFC experts have been helping the government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki draw up legislation on company privatisation.

Rye, who was in London to

sign a \$300 million borrowing on the international bond market, warned, however, that the IFC's activities could be severely curtailed if shareholder nations failed to approve a capital increase.

Rye, the IFC's executive vice president, has called for a doubling of the agency's \$1.3 billion capital. Although some European nations are enthusiastic about an increase to help support East European economies, Washington has been sceptical.

Rye said the IFC, where new investment expanded rapidly at an annual rate of 25 per cent between 1985 and 1989, will have to cut growth substantially in its new business year starting on July 1 to just five per cent.

That would compare to 14 per cent in the current year just ending but Rye said he was hopeful that a capital increase would be approved in the coming 12 months allowing the rate of new investment to pick up and recoup some of the lost growth.

"I would be very disappointed if we didn't have a capital increase by July 1 new year," he said.

Advertising slump slashes Saatchi annual profits

LONDON (R) — Saatchi and Saatchi, once the world's biggest advertising agency, reported a 27 per cent fall in first half profit and said it would pay no interim dividend.

Saatchi's £14.4 million (\$24.2 million) pre-tax profit for the six months to March 31, was in line with analysts' forecasts of a £2.4 million (\$4 million) gain from selling parts of a corporate art collection is excluded.

Its shares were up six pence (\$0.10) in London at the close at £1.07 (\$1.80). The suspension of an interim dividend had been widely expected by the market.

Saatchi reported the profit slump despite an 18 per cent rise in turnover to £2.43 billion (\$4.1 billion).

A downturn in world advertising swept Saatchi and Saatchi Company PLC off a decade-long

wave of success which started with a publicity campaign that helped British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to power in the 1979 general election.

Founded by brothers Maurice and Charles Saatchi, the company became the world's biggest advertising agency in 1986 when it acquired the Ted Bates group of the United States.

It was ousted from premier position in 1989 by WPP group, headed, ironically, by former Saatchi employee Martin Sorrell.

More than 800 jobs have been cut at Saatchi and several directors have left, while the founding brothers have taken a back seat following the appointment of Robert Louis-Dreyfus as chief executive last autumn.

The restructuring of the group was reflected in another announcement Tuesday in which

Saatchi said it had agreed, in a deal worth \$80 million, to sell its Hay group management consultancy in the U.S. to a group made up of Hay group management and institutional investors.

Saatchi is trying to unravel an extensive diversification into consultancy begun in 1984 which turned out badly.

In its communications division, which covers advertising interests, Saatchi said performance was good with a 17 per cent growth in revenue. But it added that these figures were flattered by factors including favourable currency movements.

Saatchi said it had retained and added to its client base, though a number of clients had cut spending. The company said the division's performance in the second half is expected to be at least as good as in the first half.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, June 6, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	117.8	118.5
U.S. dollar	669.0	673.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	438.8	441.4
Pound Sterling	1129.8	1136.6	Dutch guilder	352.9	355.0
Deutsche mark	397.0	399.4	Swedish crown	109.8	110.5
Swiss franc	468.6	471.4	Italian lira (for 100)	54.0	54.3
			Belgian franc (for 100)	193.1	194.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

	U.S. dollar	1.6860/70	One Sterling	One U.S. dollar
Canadian dollar	1.1730/40			
Deutsche marks	1.6850/55			
Dutch guilders	1.8975/85			
Swiss francs	1.4265/75			
Belgian francs	34.66/71			
French francs	5.6850/6000			
Italian lire	1239/1240			
Japanese yen	152.65/75			
Swedish crowns	6.0955/1005			
Norwegian crowns	6.4855/4905			
Danish crowns	6.4290/4340			
U.S. dollars	360.00/40			One ounce of gold

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks had firmed slightly by the close but an absence of factors drove most investors to the sidelines. The Nikkei rose 31.88 to 32,953.50.

SYDNEY — Stocks closed slightly lower in trading dominated by banking stocks about to go ex-dividend. The All Ordinaries fell 1.9 to 1,526.9.

HONG KONG — Stocks, down nearly 20 points shortly before midday, shot up in late trade to end at their highest level since tanks smashed a pro-democracy movement in Beijing last year. The Hang Seng Index rose 13.43 to 3,172.49.

SINGAPORE — Stocks closed generally lower in sluggish trading, with few foreign fund managers seen on the market. The Straits Times Index of blue chips rose 0.22 to 1,550.93.

FRANKFURT — Despite positive domestic economic data, shares tumbled 1.5 per cent in thin trading as doubts resurfaced about the cost of German monetary union. The Dax Index fell 27.67 to end at 1,849.02.

ZURICH — Shares closed lower in light volume as prices consolidated at slightly lower levels after recent gains. The SPI Index fell 12.7 to 1,182.4.

PARIS — Prices were generally lower at midday after an early rally. Anxiety about a parliamentary report on capital gains tax overhung the market.

LONDON — Shares were steady near the day's lows in quiet afternoon business as dealers took a break to watch the Derby horse race. At 1431 GMT the FTSE Index was down 21.1 at 2,359.0.

THE Daily Crossword by Victor Jumbo, Jr.

ACROSS
1 Confront
5 Long hit
9 "Yes"
13 Impulse
14 Look freely
15 Complications
16 Tear apart
17 Caused by the
18 Math course
19 Pile
20 Certain
21 Measure
22 Utopias
24 Curve
25 Take out
27 State houses
32 Certain pupil
33 Series
34 At once
35 Legato
36 Make butter
37 — Beach, FL
38 Oath words
39 Living bird
40 Shelf
41 Horsemen?
43 Pot-bellied
44 Doctrine
45 Croc's kin
46 5 on the Beaufort
51 High loss
54 Falls behind
55 Tropical vine
56 Gusho
57 Rebirth's son
58 Presley
59 In the last analysis
60 Move
61 Proudly
62 Turk, officials

DOWN
1 Turn out
2 Skating jump
3 Bonbon
4 Conclude
5 Overwhelms
6 Satan
7 Nomad
8 Carapace carrier
9 With all its parts
10 Stack of wood
11 Entrance
12 Nearly
13 Obliquity
14 Hitter
15 Moran or Gray
16 Active one
17 System of good conduct
18 "Blue"
19 Shoes
20 Whitefishes
21 Part of a race
22 Sophie
23 Aramid
24 Weapon
25 "Mask" star
26 Disintegrated
27 Turn thumbs
28 Downy
29 Silt
40 Glow with ardor
42 Absorbent paper
43 Destroyer
44 Tropical tree
46 Took a place
47 Tabula
48 Mild oath
49 Tick off
50 Roof edge
51 Podrida
52 Bark
53 Bar
54 Fur scarf

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1 CONFRONT
5 LONG HIT
9 YES
13 IMPULSE
14 LOOK FREELY
15 COMPLICATIONS
16 TEAR APART
17 CAUSED BY THE
18 MATH COURSE
19 PILE
20 CERTAIN
21 MEASURE
22 UTOPIAS
24 CURVE
25 TAKE OUT
27 STATE HOUSES
32 CERTAIN PUPIL
33 SERIES
34 AT ONCE
35 LEGATO
36 MAKE BUTTER
37 — BEACH, FL
38 OATH WORDS
39 LIVING BIRD
40 SHELF
41 HORSEMEN?
43 POT-BELLIED
44 DOCTRINE
45 CROC'S KIN
46 5 ON THE BEAUFORT
51 HIGH LOSS
54 FALLS BEHIND
55 TROPICAL VINE
56 GUSHO
57 REBIRTH'S SON
58 PRESLEY
59 IN THE LAST ANALYSIS
60 MOVE
61 PROUDLY
62 TURK, OFFICIALS

DOWN
1 TURN OUT
2 SKATING JUMP
3 BONBON
4 CONCLUDE
5 OVERWHELMS
6 SATAN
7 NOMAD
8 CARAPACE CARRIER
9 WITH ALL ITS PARTS
10 STACK OF WOOD
11 ENTRANCE
12 NEARLY
13 OBLIQUITY
14 HITTER
15 MORAN OR GRAY
16 ACTIVE ONE
17 SYSTEM OF GOOD CONDUCT
18 "BLUE"
19 SHOES
20 WHITEFISHES
21 PART OF A RACE
22 SOPHIE
23 ARAMID
24 WEAPON
25 "MASK" STAR
26 DISINTEGRATED
27 TURN THUMBS
28 DOWNY
29 SILT
40 GLOW WITH ARDOR
42 ABSORBENT PAPER
43 DESTROYER
44 TROPICAL TREE
46 TOOK A PLACE
47 TABULA
48 MILD OATH
49 TICK OFF
50 ROOF EDGE
51 PODRIDA
52 BARK
53 BAR
54 FUR SCARF

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, June 6, 1990
Central Bank official rates

U.S. dollar	669.0	673.0	French franc	117.8	118.5
Pound Sterling	1129.8	1136.6	Japanese yen (for 100)	438.8	441.4
Deutsche mark	397.0	399.4	Dutch guilder	352.9	355.0
Swiss franc	468.6	471.4	Swedish crown	109.8	110.5
			Italian lira (for 100)	54.0	54.3
			Belgian franc (for 100)	193.1	194.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. dollar	1.6860/70	One Sterling	One U.S. dollar
Canadian dollar	1.1730/40		
Deutsche marks	1.6850/55		
Dutch guilders	1.8975/85		
Swiss francs	1.4265/75		
Belgian francs	34.66/71		
French francs	5.6850/6000		
Italian lire	1239/1240		
Japanese yen	152.65/75		
Swedish crowns	6.0955/1005		
Norwegian crowns	6.4855/4905		
Danish crowns	6.4290/4340		
U.S. dollars	360.00/40		One ounce of gold

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks had firmed slightly by the close but an absence of factors drove most investors to the sidelines. The Nikkei rose 31.88 to 32,953.50.

SYDNEY — Stocks closed slightly lower in trading dominated by banking stocks about to go ex-dividend. The All Ordinaries fell 1.9 to 1,526.9.

HONG KONG — Stocks, down nearly 20 points shortly before midday, shot up in late trade to end at their highest level since tanks smashed a pro-democracy movement in Beijing last year. The Hang Seng Index rose 13.43 to 3,172.49.

SINGAPORE — Stocks closed generally lower in sluggish trading, with few foreign fund managers seen on the market. The Straits Times Index of blue chips rose 0.22 to 1,550.93.

FRANKFURT — Despite positive domestic economic data, shares tumbled 1.5 per cent in thin trading as doubts resurfaced about the cost of German monetary union. The Dax Index fell 27.67 to end at 1,849.02.

ZURICH — Shares closed lower in light volume as prices consolidated at slightly lower levels after recent gains. The SPI Index fell 12.7 to 1,182.4.

PARIS — Prices were generally lower at midday after an early rally. Anxiety about a parliamentary report on capital gains tax overhung the market.

LONDON — Shares were steady near the day's lows in quiet afternoon business as dealers took a break to watch the Derby horse race. At 1431 GMT the FTSE Index was down 21.1 at 2,359.0.

THE BETTER HALF

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"My mom told me to get married to learn responsibility. I should've got a puppy instead."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AMWAC
NOYL
HECREY
CINORI

Opal Have to stop off here
What's so important?

HOW OFTEN DOES A HUSBAND FORGET AN ANNIVERSARY?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JUNE 7, 1990

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A wonderful day to express your deepest desire to those you know you can trust and to uncover whatever it is that is not to your liking. Communicate with others now.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) The early part of the day finds adverse conditions in the home so don't make waves but go along with family while in the evening outside world is your oyster.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be sure you have the right ideas under which to do the things you wish in the morning while the evening is good for all sorts of interesting new activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Look for whatever things you can do early to save some money and later you find you realize a greater amount of benefits than you had realized before.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You find one you want a favour from is not inclined to grant it in the morning but later an outside associate gives you the backing you seek.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Avoid leaving some secure situation for a new appeal early while later you are able to devise ways to be more efficient in work schedule for coming days.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your desire for a good time early should await handling a present problem while in the evening you can get out with congenial companions for recreations.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think over carefully how you can please a powerful person who is difficult; then later you can have a wonderful time beneath your own roof.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Tasks that you are not sure about right away to handle should be

Italy, Brazil and Netherlands seen as leading World Cup favourites

ROME (R) — World Cup favourites Italy, Brazil and the Netherlands should reach the second round of the finals from the group matches which last night June 21.

Sixteen teams qualify for the knockout section from the 24 finalists, who are divided into six groups of four. The prospects in each group are as follows:

Group A (Rome, Florence): Italy, Austria, Czechoslovakia, United States.

Hosts Italy head a group which at first sight looks to give them an easy passage to the second round.

But the Italians, who have a tight defence marshalled by Libero Franco Baresi, have lacked a sharp attacking edge of late where they rely heavily on Gianluca Vialli.

They could face problems in their first match Saturday against lively Austria. The Austrians beat European champions the Netherlands 3-2 last week, using fast counter-attacks and the slippery skills of strikers Gerhard

Rodax and Toni Polster.

Czechoslovakia, who have been past the first round since they finished runners-up in 1962, were missing organisation and flair in their recent warm-up matches.

The elegant, commanding and versatile Jozef Chovanec is likely to be their key figure.

The United States are regarded as rank outsiders but they have qualified for the first time for 40 years and, with the tournament's youngest squad, feel they have nothing to lose.

Group B (Milan, Naples, Bari): Argentina, Soviet Union, Romania, Cameroon.

World Cup holders Argentina, who play the opening match of the tournament against Cameroon in Milan Friday, are the group favourites but they may find it hard to produce their best outside South America. Much will depend on the genius of Diego Maradona.

Argentina's build-up has been

marred by problems in getting players together from their foreign bases as well as a chronic lack of goals which encourages the hopes of the three rivals.

The Soviets have kept faith with most of the players who reached the European championship final in 1988 and impressed in the Mexico World Cup four years ago. But they look past their peak and could miss powerful midfielder Alexei Mikhailichenko, who is injured.

Romania, which ousted Denmark in a tough qualifying group, are fired with new patriotic enthusiasm after the country's revolution last December. Led by playmaker Gheorghe Hagi, the "Maradona of the Carpathians," who recently agreed to join Real Madrid, they could spring a few surprises.

Cameroon proved in the 1982 finals in Spain that they must be taken seriously. They drew with Italy and finally bowed out without losing a match. Acrobatic goalkeeper Joseph-Antoine Bell could frustrate the best, even Maradona.

Group C (Turin, Genoa): Brazil, Sweden, Scotland, Costa Rica.

Three times world champions Brazil are clear favourites though they could be pushed by Sweden, a technically solid side full of excited players with wide European experience.

Brazil's unusually cautious tactic of playing a sweeper behind the back four will almost certainly produce fewer thrills but greater consistency, a quality not normally associated with previous squads.

But midfield stars Valdo and Siles could provide the artistry to remind the fans that Brazilian

players still have remarkable technical skills.

Sweden, not beaten by Brazil for 25 years, plan to continue the run and force a draw in the opening match. They hope striker Mats Magnusson can continue his free-scoring run with Benfica in the Portuguese league last season.

Scotland, as unpredictable as ever, could qualify for the latter stages for the first time but only if they shake off a "Kamikaze" trait that has seen them score five own goals in the last eight matches.

Costa Rica complete the group and have the advantage of meeting the fragile Scots in the heat and humidity of Genoa.

Group D (Milan, Bologna): West Germany, Yugoslavia, Colombia, United Arab Emirates.

West Germany, losing finalists in 1982 and 1986, appear to have been dealt an easy assignment but they often make an indifferent start.

They have experience and ability throughout. Their five Italian-based players, Lothar Matthaus, Rudi Voeller, Juergen Klinsmann, Andreas Brehme and Thomas Berthold, will feel at home and midfielder Thomas Haessler, who joins them in Italy next season, could emerge as one of the tournament's stars.

Yugoslavia look the second strongest and with players of flair, like Dragan Stojkovic and Zlatko Vujovic, should have little trouble advancing.

Colombia, whose preparations were interrupted by death threats from a group seeking to cleanse domestic soccer of drug money, look to the attacking skills of Carlos Valderrama and the bold goalkeeping of Rene Higuita.

For the United Arab Emirates, reaching the World Cup finals for the first time is achievement enough. Anything else would be a bonus.

Group E (Verona, Udine): Belgium, Spain, Uruguay, South Korea.

The battle for second round places should be the closest of all with all four confident of going through.

Seeded Belgium, semifinalists in 1986, are pinning their hopes on winning their opening match against the Koreans, probably the strongest of the World Cup underdogs, and expect to overcome Spain, whom they beat in the quarter-finals four years ago.

They are boosted by the return to form of midfielder Enzo Scifo after two years in the doldrums.

Spanish coach Luis Suarez said he feared twice world champions Uruguay more than the Belgians. His team has a strong midfield guided by Michel and Rafael Martin Vazquez and a great striker in Emilio Butragueno, their Real Madrid team mate and scorer of four goals against the Danes in the Mexico finals.


Oscar Washington Tabarez, the Uruguayan trainer, believes his team, who boast a brilliant front-line partnership in Enzo Francescoli and Ruben Sosa, could go on to win the title — provided they survive the group.

South Korea are confident they will not leave Italy empty-handed and coach Lee Hoe-Taik has focussed on beating Uruguay, the side he sees as the weakest of his three rivals.

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ITALIA '90

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Snacks & Refreshments Service are available.

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The Philadelphia
INTERNATIONAL HOTEL MANAGEMENT COMPANY
Tel. 663100

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

By Rami G. Khouri

Jordan Times Baseball Correspondent

AMMAN — Jordan's Little League baseball season drew to a close last Friday with several thrilling all-star games, ground-breaking for a project to improve the playing fields, and plans for a team from Jordan to participate once again in the International Little League baseball tournaments.

The closing ceremony of the 1990 baseball season included the traditional combination of thanks for all those schools, sponsors, parents, coaches, team moms and other volunteers who helped make the season a success; awarding certificates, photographs and trophies to all participating players; and exhortations from American Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth so smooth that they evoked many baseball aficionados to recall visions of Brooks Robinson at third base.

Little League President Mithkal Asfour presided over the closing ceremony, which ended with a ground-breaking ceremony to start work on re-surfacing the playing fields at the American Community School. The work will be completed in time for the start of football season in September, and will include installing lights which will permit early evening practices and games. The money for the field improvements was raised through a local fund-raising drive organized by a joint committee from ACS and the Amman Little League, headed by Mr. Pierre Haddad. AICI contractors are contributing many of the technical support services for the work.

Baseball Commissioner Maher "Abu Mousa" Khelifah announced that three weeks of training by a selection of 30 kid-pitch all-stars would result in choosing a team of 14 players to travel to Germany in late July to participate in the European division of the International Little League tournament. Last year, the first ever team from Jordan participated in Germany, under the able coaching of Mr. Paul Plimmions. This year's team will be coached by Mr. Kim Gustafson, with the assistance of several other Jordanian and American coaches.

1990 FINAL BASEBALL STANDINGS

T-BALL DIVISION:

A five-way tie for first place among Aqaba Shipping Company, Jordan Express, Nishashibi-Ebbisi, Ishtial Library and Data Mini.

COACH-PITCH DIVISION:

1. National Steel Industry
2. Epsom
3. Aramex
4. Intercontinental
5. AICI
6. Pirelli
7. Comcast
8. Arab Finance Corp.

KID-PITCH DIVISION:

1. NECC
2. Danish Dairy
3. Westinghouse
4. Jordan Worsteds Mills
5. Mr. Chips
6. Marriott

SOFTBALL DIVISION:

1. Qaddousi Agricultural
2. NADAS
3. Second Time Around
4. Volvo

CAR FOR SALE

VW Golf, Model 1985
Duty unpaid

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FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

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TURKISH FILM WEEK

A Turkish Film Week is organised between 9 and 14 June 1990 at the Royal Cultural Center in Amman. Entrance is free of charge and tickets are available at the box-office of the RCC. The programme is as follows:

- 9-June 1990/Saturday- Hunting Time (feature film)
- 10-June 1990/Sunday-Hurmoz with Seven Husband (feature film)
- 11-June 1990/Monday-Wife as Gramophone (feature film)
- 12-June 1990/Tuesday-Any Other Woman (feature film)
- 13-June 1990/Wednesday-Art of Marbling-Feast of Colours (Documentary film)
- 14-June 1990/Thursday-Tile Art of the Anatolian Seljuks (Documentary film).

FRIDAY'S RACES AT THE ROYAL RACING CLUB-TUNEIB

FIRST RACE 4.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Musallam Khalil	N. Um El-Awad	Owner	Younis	56
2- Khalid Khalil	Mozdawi	Owner	Yousif	53
3- Mohammed Salim Naboley	Aia Mahiik	Owner	Widan	51.5
4- Nidal Barjas El Hadeed	A. Artoub	Owner	Mostafa	50
5- Dr. A. El Naeem A. Wandy	S. Maen	Owner	Itat	50
6- Hilmy Hussein Eltozy	El Asif	Owner	Hiary	50

SECOND RACE 4.30 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Dahis	Abbas	Rasheed	56
2- Ghazy A. Jalir	Arbeed	Kamal	Mostafa	56
3- Abdullah Dawoud	Widan	Owner	Hiary	56
4- Moayyad M. El Assaf	Mafakhir	Owner	Younis	54.5
5- Mohammed S. Rabaiyeh	Shahim	Owner	George	53
6- Nafel Anwar Shalan	Mahasin	Mohsin	Itat	51.5
7- Nawaf Anwar Shalan	Serikh	Zaidan	Itat	50
8- Nimir El Hmoud	Shams	Owner		48.5

THIRD RACE 5.00 FOR THIRD & SECOND CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1600 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Kamel Wasi Bahrat	S. Elai	Khalid	Mostafa	60
2- Ali Fares El Saad	F. Noel	Khalid	Rasheed	59.5
3- Nimir El Hmoud	El Hasna	Owner	Widan	57.5
4- Nimir El Hmoud	Jandir	Owner	Hiary	57
5- Mansour Anwar Shalan	Salfamir	Zaidan	Saad	55.5
6- Mansour Anwar Shalan	Orwah	Mohsin	George	53.5
7- Fawaz Anwar Shalan	Asheer	Zaidan	Itat	53
8- Salim Abu Rawaa	Elmayas	Owner		56

FOURTH RACE 5.30 FOR BEGINNER, THIRD & SECOND CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Ramy Fares Daasan	M. Dina	Khalid	Mostafa	57.5
2- Fawaz Anwar Shalan	Ishtir	Zaidan	Saad	57
3- Ali Fares Saad	Saad Ali	Khalid	Rasheed	57
4- Ali Fares Saad	M. Sarah	Khalid	Itat	56
5- Ibrahim Hany Bahrat	Naamain	Khalid	Samy	56
6- Nawaf Anwar Shalan	Easy	Zaidan	Itat	53
7- Nawaf Anwar Shalan	Eldanah	Mohsin	George	48.5

FOR AMATEURS 6.00 DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse
1- Ghazy Mashhour El Falez	Khalid
2- Shakeeb Zaid	Dolar
3- Khalid Ayyad	Nada
4- Jalal El Kotub	El-Ghool
5- Nawaf El Falez	Sanaa
6- Salah Eddin Ahmad	Falah
7- Omar El Rafay	I El Reeh

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9½ weeks

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Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

SECRET PLACES

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOUR** Tel: 675571

MAD MAX 2

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

Tom Cruise... in

"LOSIN IT"

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 10:30

Death toll reaches 40 in Soviet Central Asia unrest

MOSCOW (Agencies) — At least 40 people have been killed and more than 200 injured in fighting between ethnic Kirghiz and Uzbeks in Soviet Central Asia, an official said Wednesday.

Anatoly Lukyanov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet legislature, gave the figures in a report to lawmakers on the latest outbreak of ethnic violence to trouble the government of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Earlier reports Wednesday said police fired on Kirghiz and Uzbeks trying to storm police stations in the city of Osh, where at least 25 people were killed in two days of clashes.

Reinforcements of police and Interior Ministry troops were sent to Osh, in the western part of the Republic of Kirghizia on the border with Uzbekistan, the Interfax news agency reported.

The clashes spread to a nearby town, where deaths and injuries were reported. Police in Frunze, the capital of Kirghizia, were placed on alert.

An assistant duty officer of the Osh police, reached by telephone Wednesday, said the situation remained complicated and all his superiors were out on the streets.

Armed Kirghiz and Uzbeks tried to attack regional civil defence headquarters and police stations in three districts of the

city on Tuesday, forcing police to open fire, Interfax said.

The news agency said 25 people were killed and 143 were wounded in the 24-hour period ending Tuesday. It was not clear whether that toll included the 11 dead that Interfax and the Soviet news agency (TASS) had reported earlier.

TASS reported Tuesday and Wednesday that more than 200 people had been injured in two days of clashes, but there was no immediate way to reconcile that figure with the latest Interfax report.

A state of emergency and a 10 p.m.-6 a.m. curfew was declared in Osh Tuesday after rioting began Monday evening in a dispute between the two Sunni Muslim ethnic groups over plots of land for housing, TASS said.

Hundreds rampaged through the streets of the city of 210,000 people, setting fires to houses, shops and cars.

TASS reported Wednesday that factories and stores remained closed in Osh, where police and Interior Ministry troops set up roadblocks and restricted entry to

the city. The Soviet army newspaper Red Star reported that the only enterprise still working in Osh was a large bakery.

In the town of Urga, 60 kilometres from Osh, six people were killed and 18 injured when the district police headquarters was attacked and two sub-machineguns were captured, the newspaper said.

Ethnic tensions spread to Frunze, where police were in a state of alert and a soccer match by a visiting team from Uzbekistan was cancelled for fear of violence, according to the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda.

Absamat Masaliev, head of Kirghizia's parliament, broadcast a speech to the population Tuesday night, saying that authorities were trying to resolve the land dispute, TASS said.

Housing is critically short in Soviet Central Asia, among the poorest regions of the nation. Leaders of Uzbek informal groups also demanded that an autonomous region be set up inside Kirghizia. About one-third of Osh's residents are Uzbek.

In another development, military leaders in the Baltic region accused the separatist governments in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania of boosting tension in the region and weakening the Soviet Union's defences.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis accused certain forces within his republic of trying to engineer a coup.

In Riga, Sarmite Erte, an official of the Latvian parliament, said the presidents and prime ministers of the three republics would discuss how the Baltic issue was dealt with at the Washington summit.

The meeting, she said, would be within the framework of the Baltic Council, a pre-war body recently revived to discuss common questions and the joint drive to restore the republics' independence.

Tuesday's statement issued by the Baltic Military District Council in Riga said the three governments were "leading an active propaganda and legislative campaign aimed at undermining the unity of our state."

"Many laws hurriedly adopted by the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian parliaments contradict the Soviet constitution and laws," it said.

Republican authorities, it said, were engaged in illegal acts, including the misappropriation of Soviet Defence Ministry property.

The three republics have targeted the Soviet military in much of their pro-independence campaign, with Lithuania at one point urging its young men not to respond to call-up notices.

China frees 97 prisoners

PEKING (R) — China's Public Security Ministry announced Wednesday that 97 prisoners involved in last year's democracy movement had been released in Peking and Shanghai.

The prisoners included 19 students, the official New China News Agency quoted the ministry as saying.

Two of the students were named as Xiong Wei and Zhou Fengsuo who were on a police list of 21 most wanted students issued shortly after the June 1989 crackdown.

A ministry spokesman said the released prisoners had pleaded guilty, voluntarily confessed and expressed a willingness to repent.

"Those who obstinately stick to an incorrect course and refuse to repent will be punished strictly in accordance with the law," the spokesman was quoted as saying.

The latest mass release brought the total number of those freed since the June crackdown to 851, according to China's official tally.

Hundreds more activists are believed to remain in prison, according to Western human rights organisations.

Announcement of the releases followed an overwhelming security clampdown in Peking during the anniversary earlier this week of last year's bloody end to the democracy movement.

A Western diplomat, commenting on the releases, said China's leaders were still concerned that the U.S. Congress might overturn President George Bush's recommendation that China retain its most-favoured-nation trade status.

China has said loss of the status, which gives it low tariffs on exports to the United States, could cost it \$10 billion a year. Bush has linked an improvement in China's human-rights record with progress in Sino-U.S. relations.

Diplomats said the releases were also aimed at assuaging a hostile public within China, especially in Peking where memories of last year's crackdown are still strong.

Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin said in May that 431 people who were involved in last year's democracy movement remained in prison after the release earlier in the month of 211 prisoners.

According to China's official tally this leaves 334 people still in jail, including 23 students.

The 97 freed in the latest batch were 76 people in Peking and 21 in Shanghai, the Public Security Ministry said.

One of those released in Shanghai was named as Yao Yongzhan, better known by his Cantonese name of Yui Yung-Chin, a 20-year-old Hong Kong student arrested in June last year after he tried to leave Shanghai following the military crackdown in Peking on June 3 and 4.

Two others said to have been released in Shanghai were named as Chen Qiwei and Yang Lujun. Chen was deputy director of the economics department of Huadong Teachers University in Shanghai, according to earlier Shanghai newspaper reports.

Yang is on a list of prisoners known to the human-rights group Amnesty International and identified as a researcher at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences.

The two students named as released in Peking, Xiong and Zhou, were from Qinghua University.

Soviets reassure North Korea on ties with South

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet News Agency (TASS) has sought to reassure North Korea that the Kremlin won't let its relations with the Communist state be damaged by Soviet moves to establish ties with South Korea.

TASS asserted in a commentary Tuesday that Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting with President Roh Tae-Woo of South Korea had been described by Western media as a "political sensation" marking "drastic changes" in Moscow's Asia policy.

The commentary, by political analyst Yuri Kornilov, did not specify which news outlets were making those claims.

Roh told reporters after meeting the Soviet leader in San Francisco Monday that the two countries would establish diplomatic ties.

But Gorbachev was vague on the prospects of South Korean-Soviet ties, saying only "we will let the fruit grow ripe, and when the fruit grows ripe, we will eat it."

Kornilov said the Roh-Gorbachev meeting was a sensation only because it was the first between leaders of the Soviet Union and South Korea — not because it signals any change in Soviet policy.

"As to prospects for the establishment of diplomatic relations, of which much is being written and said in the West nowadays, the Soviet stand is well known and remains unchanged. This issue can be considered only in connection with further improve-

ment of the situation in the Korean peninsula."

Kornilov concluded: "Of course, the removal of ideological blinkers from our foreign policy and the course towards broader economic contacts and political dialogue with other countries in no way means that we give up our principled positions and priorities or forgo interests of third countries."

And he reassured North Korea, "our country will continue to maintain and promote in all ways its traditionally close political, economic and other ties" with North Korea.

The TASS analyst said the Soviet Union continues to support North Korean proposals for peace on the peninsula.

Korea was divided in 1945 at the end of World War II, when Soviet and U.S. troops ended Japan's colonial rule. The division deepened after the two Koreas fought a war in 1950-53.

In South Korea, newspapers reported Wednesday that the country's foreign minister, Choi Ho-Jong, plans to visit Moscow next month to discuss terms of establishing formal ties.

Dong-A Ilbo and Joong-Ang Ilbo in dispatches by correspondents who accompanied Roh on his U.S. visit, said Choi plans to meet Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

They said Shevardnadze would then be invited to visit Seoul about a month later to finalise terms for opening formal diplomatic relations.



Andreotti rebuffs Hurd over warning

ROME (AP) — Premier Giulio Andreotti has said he rebuffed the British foreign secretary's warning about possible attacks by Palestinians at the World Cup by telling him to "think about your own fellow citizens. Andreotti's comments, during a brief reception for the Italian national soccer team, told reporters about his recent telephone conversation with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. "A few days ago I spoke with the English foreign secretary who warned me about a Palestinian threat to the World Cup," Andreotti told reporters. "I replied to the secretary," the premier continued, "that we would take care of the Palestinians, but he should worry about his own fellow citizens. It seems the English always have to drink beer before a game. It becomes necessary to surround them with security." Italian and English authorities have been cooperating on security measures in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari, where the English team will play its first-round games.

Queen Elizabeth shows age in new banknote

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth is finally showing her age on a new banknote which portrays Britain's 64-year-old monarch with a double chin, wrinkles and slight bags under her eyes. "It makes me look 60 old," the tabloid Sun newspaper on Wednesday quoted the queen as telling artist Roger Whitham, who designed the new note. "But then I suppose I am old." The Bank of England insisted the queen had aged gracefully on the previous note, whose portrait updates the one on the old blue £5 note and other denominations by 25 years. The monarch's profile on coins and stamps also dates from the 1950s. The new note appears Thursday. It is smaller and, the Bank of England said, harder to forge than its predecessor.

Couple wed during high school reunion

PINE BLUFF, Arkansas (AP) — Tim Newton did more than show off his fiancée at his 10-year high school reunion. He married her. Newton told a friend at the weekend gathering of 1980 Star City High School graduates that he and Tracy Byford had marriage license. He joked that if a minister were present they'd tie the knot. Then the friend revealed that he was an ordained minister. That was all it took, said the new Mrs. Newton, 20. "Everybody just kept on going, 'Y'all ought to get married,'" she said. She said Newton, 27, stood dumbfounded "with a weird look on his face" before agreeing to the impromptu wedding. Women at the banquet started grabbing flowers from wall and table arrangements to make a bridal bouquet. Newton picked a best man and his intended chose a bride's maid. Another classmate played the wedding march on a hand piano. After the ceremony, there were cheers, and then the 75-or-so classmates produced cake and champagne for the reunion-turned-reception. There even was a band to serenade the newlyweds.

Couple wins lottery twice in three weeks

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian couple beat enormous odds and won a 100,000 dollars (\$76,000) lottery for the second time in three weeks. Sydney Secretary Michelle Kenny and her husband won first prize in this week's jackpot lottery after winning the lottery on May 15, the New South Wales state lottery office said. The couple, who used the first win to pay off their home mortgage, bought five more lottery tickets when collecting their winnings from the office. "I just couldn't believe it when we won the first prize again," said the 34-year-old secretary. "I've only been taking lottery tickets for a few months. I've never really been a lucky person." Kenny said her husband and two teenage sons had yet to decide what to do with their second windfall.

Gorbachev must lighten up on Lithuania, Congress leaders say

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional leaders told President George Bush Tuesday that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev must lighten up on Lithuania if he expects congress to approve trade benefits for Moscow.

"Call it linkage or call it reality," Senate minority leader Bob Dole, a Republican, said after Bush briefed top house and Senate leaders on his private conversations with Gorbachev during the summit.

Lawmakers said Bush told them he had received no assurances from Gorbachev, even in private, that the Soviet Union

would lift its economic boycott of the independence-seeking Baltic state.

House Speaker Thomas Foley, a Democrat, said Bush "made it very clear" that he had presented a strong case to Gorbachev for easing up on Lithuania.

"When the president sends us the trade agreement... there will be many in Congress who will want to see progress on Lithuania before approving it," Foley said. "I asked the president if he thought President Gorbachev understood there might be such reaction from Congress, he said he did."

"I'm not going to assess whether his pressing (Gorbachev) was adequate or not," said Senate majority leader George Mitchell, also a Democrat. "He said he made the case."

Mitchell said that nothing the president said made him feel any more optimistic that a Lithuanian settlement was near.

Dole said Bush told lawmakers at the 45-minute session that "he had no direct assurances" on Lithuania. However, Dole and other lawmakers said Bush stressed the fact that he had developed a good working relationship with the Soviet leader.

India seals Sikh temple for raid anniversary

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — Armed policemen surrounded the Golden Temple Wednesday because Sikh militants planned to observe the sixth anniversary of an army raid on the holy Sikh shrine, authorities said.

Only women and children were allowed to enter the Golden Temple, where at least 1,200 people were killed in 1984 when the army moved in to dislodge armed Sikh separatists.

Deputy Commissioner Sarabjit Singh, the top civil administrator in the city, said authorities had received information that some militant groups would "violate the peace of the temple" to commemorate the anniversary.

Soldiers, backed by tanks and heavy artillery, stormed the temple on June 3, 1984, to clear the shrine of an armed band of Sikh militants who had made it their base for an insurgency.

Hundreds of civilians, mostly devotees visiting the temple on that day, were killed in the cross fire. The fighting continued for four days, at the end of which most of the militants were killed or had surrendered.

The Sikh insurgency, marked by hit-and-run attacks and bombings mainly on civilian targets, still lingers in Amritsar and surrounding districts of Punjab state. Authorities routinely announce a general alert in the state in early June every year to guard against any upsurge of violence.

Police Superintendent Sanjiv Gupta said at least 5,000 policemen were posted around the one-square-kilometre temple complex Tuesday.

At least 500 plainclothes policemen were inside the shrine.

Canadian leaders optimistic as Meech Lake talks progress

OTTAWA (R) — Canada's leaders have emerged from a 13-hour meeting expressing confidence they were closing in on a solution to a constitution crisis that threatens the country's unity.

"I've switched from my pessimism to thinking there is a chance," said Premier Don Getty of the Western province of Alberta.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said he and the 10 provincial premiers had not struck any firm agreements but achieved more progress by the end of the third day of talks.

The source of the politicians' optimism appeared to be a preliminary agreement on senate reform. The issue has been a major stumbling block to passage of the Meech Lake Constitutional Accord.

The accord recognises Quebec's status as a distinct society within Canada, and its ratification by the June 23 deadline is

essential to check a growing separatist movement in the discontented French-speaking province.

"No doubt the climate is much improved over yesterday," Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa said as he emerged from the meeting.

Bourassa said he felt the two staunchest opponents of the accord, Premiers Gary Filmon of Manitoba and Clyde Wells of Newfoundland, appeared slightly more flexible.

"I don't say Mr. Wells and Mr. Filmon have accepted that Meech Lake must be ratified by June 23, but I found in their attitude more openness than I felt yesterday," he said.

Filmon said he was glad that all the disputed issues had finally been put on the table. He complained previously that some of his province's concerns had not come up in the talks that began on Sunday night.

"Today they were dealing with all of the issues on the agenda. We're doing the work we should be doing," he said.

There was speculation that Mulroney, the author of the 1987 Meech Lake Accord, was crafting a package of proposals that would allow the recalcitrant premiers to approve the accord without losing face in their home provinces.

Bourassa, under pressure from Quebec's nationalists, held to his line that the Meech Lake Accord must be ratified as it stands. But he said he recognised that the senate must be reformed and he was willing to consider changes in another round of talks.

The outlying provinces want to transform the senate from a body of politicians appointed by the prime minister into an elected chamber along the lines of the U.S. Senate in order to offset the power of the populous central provinces Quebec and Ontario, in the elected House of Commons.

Berlin wants to scrap massive blockade reserves

WEST BERLIN (AP) — For more than four decades, West Berliners have been stockpiling huge amounts of provisions to keep the city alive just in case the Soviets return with another blockade.

City officials now say changing times have made the warehouses filled with sugar, grain, bandages, toothpaste and hundreds of other items unnecessary.

"This is a relic of the cold war," said Gerhard Erbe, the city official in charge of supervising a large portion of the emergency reserves.

The Germans started their stockpiles on the orders of the victorious Western allies — France, Britain and the United States — after the Berlin airlift broke the traumatic Soviet blockade in May 1949.

West Berlin's leftist leaders say the federal government in Bonn should ask the allies for permission to scrap the whole programme for the city of 2 million people.

City government economics chief Peter Mitzscherling has even suggested giving the food and other supplies to Eastern European nations, where democracy has replaced Communism.

West Berlin officials decline to give a breakdown of how much is

stored, saying it's still kept "top secret" to keep the "potential enemy" from learning details of the plans.

"The goal is, in the event of another blockade, to provide the city with all necessary goods," says Erbe. "It was also to have a calming effect on the people."

Erbe says the goods stored in 200 separate locations are to last as rations for a "long period of time," but declined to specify how long.

One of the storehouses is located in the teeming Westhafen along the Spandau Shipping Canal. Sacks of sugar, medicines and thousands of cases of jarred fruit are carefully stored there.

Horst Kleff, who supervises part of the programme for the federal government, says the plan was to have enough food on hand for a half-year.

But he concedes: "Some things we now have in smaller quantities."

The Berliner Morgenpost newspaper claims to have learned some of the quantities, reportedly including 166,444 tonnes of grain, 38,752 tonnes of canned vegetables and 493,668 tonnes of light heating oil. The goods are routinely sold off and restocked to ensure that everything is usable.

The stockpiled goods over the years have provided great comfort, especially to older Berliners. Many of the elderly remember their city being torn apart by the collapse of Nazi Germany in 1945 and being shut off from the world by the Soviet blockade three years later.

The Soviets tried to starve the western part of the city into submission, blocking land traffic starting in June 1948.

For 10½ months, a massive airlift organised by the United States kept the city alive.

Even though four power agreements of 1971 set aside many of the disputes with the Soviets, the emergency reserves stayed in this city located 140 kilometres within then-Communist East Germany.

The federal government in Bonn provides about 200 million marks (\$125 million) a year to maintain the reserves, which could be worth up to 2.5 billion marks (\$1.6 billion).

Adult clothing was phased out years ago, even before the massive changes in Eastern Europe. And as officials look around to save money during the enormously expensive unification process, the reserves have become a target for likely savings as well as sarcasm.

"The West Berlin City Govern-

ment even wanted to start getting rid of the huge supplies of toilet paper, since according to State Secretary (Juergen) Dittberner, people could just use a newspaper in an emergency," the Frankfurter Rundschau, quoted the city's no. 2 economics official as saying.

The newspaper continued: "But at the prompting of the federal government, the toilet paper stayed in the repertoire."

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government must first study the request to halt the programme, before deciding whether to pass it on to the Western allies.

Anthony W. Sariti, U.S. diplomatic spokesman in Berlin, said it's not certain what answer the allies are likely to give.

But he added: "Given the tenor of the times, I can't imagine we would give it unsympathetic hearing."

Selling off the stockpiles could take about three or more years.

While the list of items contained also includes soap, cleaning materials, coffee, fish and meat as well as clothing for kids and young people, city official Erbe told the Associated Press one thing is missing: dog food to feed the Berliners' adored poodles.

"People would have to share their own rations with their dogs," Erbe says with a laugh.

Havel recommends vote for former dissidents in elections

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — President Vaclav Havel appealed Tuesday to Czechoslovakians to vote for his former dissident colleagues Friday in the first free elections since 1946.

Without explicitly recommending a vote for the Civic Forum organisation that powered the anti-Communist revolution and propelled him to power, Havel threw his popularity and authority clearly behind former dissidents who battled the old Stalinist order, as he did.

"Please don't listen to generalities, attractive talk, don't listen to cheap promises, don't be governed by appeals to all kinds of emotions," Havel said in a nationwide TV address four days ahead of the elections.

"Attractive programmes can be written today by almost anybody who was taught spelling and grammar at school," he said in a swipe at the host of parties that emerged once seasoned dissidents had won last winter's battle for political pluralism.

There are 22 parties contesting the elections for a new federal parliament and new Czech and Slovak regional parliaments.

"Try, please, to choose those lists of candidates on which you find names of people who defied totalitarianism or who openly rebelled against it," Havel said.

Most of his former dissident friends are standing for civic forum or its Slovak counterpart, Public Against Violence.

But Jan Carnogursky — like Havel a prominent human rights campaigner under Communist rule and currently first deputy premier in the coalition government formed in December — is a candidate for the rival, conservative Christian Democrats.

Havel, who as president will formally appoint the new federal government, appeared to endorse the status quo.

"Vote for those parties and movements about which you are sure they can continue the work of the government of national

understanding," he said.

One contentious point about the current government is its inclusion of former Communists.

Federal Premier Marian Calfa, for instance, joined while still a prominent Communist. He swiftly turned in his party card, and is now a leading candidate of Public Against Violence in Slovakia, where the Christian Democrats have attacked such former Communists standing on a reformist ticket.

Havel urged Czechoslovakians to vote for people who "don't change their coats every week."

But he is said by his political allies to have confidence in Calfa, characterised by Havel aides as a hard worker.

The Communist Party itself is currently ranked a distant third in opinion polls, which have moved steadily in the past two months in favour of Civic Forum and Public Against Violence, now predicted to get between 39 and 42 per cent of the vote nationwide.